

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

15 DECEMBER 1982

Lebanon

Draper, Habib Efforts -- U.S. Deputy Assistant Under Secretary of State Morris Draper arrived in Beirut on 14 December, Beirut radio reported. "Informed sources" expressed satisfaction with the continuing U.S. efforts and affirmed that it has become possible to reach practical results if Israel acts in a well-intentioned manner, the radio added. Noting that U.S. envoy Philip Habib is expected to arrive in Israel on 15 December, another Beirut report expressed the hope that the two envoys' work will lead to limited withdrawals.

Habib may succeed in securing the 15-km withdrawal of Israeli, Syrian and Palestinian forces as an initial phase, unidentified press reports cited by Beirut radio indicated. However, the Tel Aviv daily HA'ARETZ cited "senior political sources" in Jerusalem as saying that there are no early signs that the United States intends to effect a "disengagement of forces" in Lebanon. THE JERUSALEM POST stated that even if Israel and Lebanon reach an agreement on security in southern Lebanon, an IDF withdrawal could be "remote" because Syria shows no signs of wanting to leave.

Tripoli Situation -- Former Prime Minister Rashid Karami chaired a meeting in Tripoli convened to discuss methods of dealing with the situation in the area, Beirut radio reported. Members of the delegation that visited Damascus on 13 December attended the meeting and reported that a "Syrian envoy" will soon arrive in Tripoli to meet with local leaders and study the situation, the radio added.

Armed clashes resumed in Tripoli on 14 December between Lebanese groups and the Arab Deterrent Forces, Baghdad Voice of the PLO radio reported. Beirut radio reports noted that the situation in Tripoli was tense, and that intermittent, sometimes violent, clashes occurred in some areas.

'Alayh Situation -- Although a Beirut radio report stated that the curfew in 'Alayh was lifted, shops were opened and the international highway was opened in both directions. The clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported that "substantial caution" prevailed in the area following the injury of two Christians, an incident "which forced the Lebanese Forces to respond by firing." The Socialist Party center in Hayy al-Balakin was fired on and some of the building's occupants were injured, the radio added.

Israel

Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon asserted that although Israel has no intention of annexing "Judaea and Samaria," it will continue to establish settlements there, Jerusalem radio reported. He called Israeli security and settlements in Judaea, Samaria, or "anywhere," "basic rights" and added that the current government will continue to implement its settlement policy. Sharon insisted that the settlements will prevent any possibility of establishing a "second Palestinian state -- second to one that exists already in Jordan," another Jerusalem radio report stated.

Egypt

President Husni Mubarak met with FRG President Karl Carstens and Chancellor Helmut Kohl on 14 December in Bonn to discuss both bilateral and international relations, particularly Middle East issues, MENA and DPA reported. In a speech delivered at a luncheon hosted by Carstens, the text of which was transmitted by MENA, Mubarak stated that Egypt welcomes an active European role in the Middle East and is pleased that the FRG has called for immediate Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon.

PLO

Amman Meetings -- A press statement issued by the higher Jordanian-Palestinian committee following meetings held 13-14 December in Amman declared that the committee members agreed to continue moving together politically on all levels based on a commitment to the Fes summit resolutions and to marshal all resources in order to regain Arab and Palestinian rights, Amman radio reported. PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat termed the committee's discussion "constructive and fruitful," another Amman radio report stated. Radio Monte Carlo noted that the "new strategy" devised by the committee is aimed at bringing international initiatives and the Arab peace plan closer together.

'Arafat Interview -- PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat told the Kuwait daily AS-SIYASAH that the PLO rejects "all U.S. and Zionist plans and initiatives headed by the autonomous rule and the Camp David accord," KUNA reported. The PLO leader denounced these plans as attempts to shatter Palestinian unity. 'Arafat also noted that the recent meetings in Aden were some of the most important Palestinian meetings and will have "tangible, positive" results.

Diplomatic Recognition -- Bolivia has granted the PLO office in La Paz full diplomatic status, Baghdad Voice of PLO radio reported.

Inter-Arab Affairs

PLO-Ba'th Meeting -- 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, met with Palestine National Council Speaker Khalid al-Fahum in Damascus on 14 December to discuss the latest Middle East developments, Damascus radio revealed. The two sides stressed the importance of Syrian-Palestinian relations and emphasized the need to continue the joint struggle to establish Palestinian rights, the radio added.

Saudi-Syrian Talks -- Saudi Arabia's King Fahd will soon visit Syria in an attempt to settle differences between Syria and Iraq, KUNA reported citing the Kuwait daily AL-ANBA'. Political sources told AL-ANBA' that the talks would include discussion of Syrian-Palestinian relations, the seven-member Arab League delegation's recent visits as well as possible Syrian assistance in effecting the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon. Informed Saudi sources expect the "anticipated and important visit" to take place as soon as the Saudi monarch returns from his current private visit to Spain, the same KUNA report stated.

Gulf Affairs

GCC Justice Meeting -- During a 2-day meeting in Riyadh, GCC justice ministers agreed on the framework and general principles for basing their countries' judicial systems and legislation on Islamic law, KUNA reported. Experts from the six member countries' Justice Ministries will meet to put the agreement into practice, KUNA added. Noting that some Gulf countries have implemented "cosmetic measures" such as banning Christmas and New Year parties in order to conform with Islamic laws and traditions, IRNA asserted that these decisions were made because the Muslims in the Gulf have been strongly influenced by the Islamic revolution in Iran.

YAR Earthquake -- YAR Prime Minister 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani announced that 142 towns and villages were damaged and over 2,000 people are known to have been killed or injured in the 13 December earthquake that struck Dhamar Province, Aden and San'a' radios reported. The seismic center in Djibouti registered four earth tremors from 1215 to 1730 on 13 December; the initial tremor registered 6 and the three subsequent tremors each registered 5.4 on the Richter scale, San'a' radio reported.

PDRY Student Protest -- A statement issued at a youth rally held in Aden to protest U.S. military exercises in Oman and Somalia condemned the exercises and asserted that the Gulf has become a primary target of U.S. imperialism. Aden radio reported. One youth leader accused the United States of mounting the exercises in response to the recent successful meetings PDRY and PLO leaders held in Aden, the radio added.

FBIS

DAILY REPORT

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NATIONAL COUNCIL TO CONVENE IN ALGIERS 1 JAN

JN150732 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 15 Dec 82 pp 1, 21

[Salim Sakit dispatch]

[Text] Najib al-Ahmad, the director of PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's office in Amman, has announced that the Palestine National Council [PNC] will convene in Algiers early next month.

Al-Ahmad said that invitations have been extended to the PLO Executive Committee members to meet in Tunis on Friday, the day after tomorrow, to prepare for holding the PNC session. He added that the Executive Committee, as dictated by the national charter, will review its work during the period that followed its previous meeting.

In another development, however, it has been learned that the PNC will begin its work precisely on the first day of January.

It is to be noted that the PLO has been invited by Jordan, Morocco, Sudan, Tunisia, Algeria, and the PDRY to hold the PNC sessions in either one.

SEVEN-STATE SUMMIT TO DISCUSS ARAB TOUR

JN151022 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 15 Dec 82 pp 1, 15

[Excerpt] A Palestinian official in Amman yesterday said that a seven-state Arab summit will soon be held to review the outcome of the seven-member Arab committee's mission to the superpower capitals -- a mission conducted to explain the Arab peace plan.

Dr Nabil Sha'th, Palestine National Council member and member of the higher Jordanian-Palestinian committee, said that the seven-state summit, over which contacts are underway to pick its venue, will look into the possibility of calling for an expanded Arab summit conference.

Dr Sha'th said that the outcome of the seven-member committee's tour was generally useful and positive in its entirety. The committee became acquainted with the stands of the leaders of the states covered by the tour. The committee also briefed the leaders on the Fes summit resolutions and on the Arab viewpoints. Dr Sha'th described the British [stand toward the seven-member committee] as anomalous.

EGYPTIAN-PALESTINIAN-LEBANESE SUMMIT TO BE HELD

GF140854 Doha QNA in Arabic 0800 GMT 14 Dec 82

[Text] Doha, 14 Dec (QNA) -- The Qatari newspaper AL-'ARAB reported that arrangements are in progress to hold a limited Egyptian-Palestinian-Lebanese summit meeting to be attended by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil, and Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee.

The newspaper quoted Egyptian sources as saying that this summit is likely to be held shortly and that the summit meeting will take place following intensive contacts made by Egypt lately. Through these contacts it has been transpired that all parties have good intentions and that the Lebanese and Palestinian sides are ready to solve all the pending problems.

The Egyptian sources added that high on the summit's agenda will be the discussion of assurances by the Lebanese authorities to the Palestinians in all Lebanese territory, the PLO's readiness to assist the Lebanese administration in imposing its authority over all of Lebanon's soil, and the discussion of the situation and military interference of the militias of certain Lebanese religious sects in Tripoli.

These Egyptian sources did not give a specific date or place for the summit. However, they affirmed the summit will be held shortly and might be in Cairo. The Egyptian sources pointed out that there is no U.S. role in the contacts pertinent to this tripartite summit.

'ARAFAT COMMENTS ON RECENT ADEN MEETING

LD141020 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0804 GMT 14 Dec 82

[Text] Kuwait, 14 Dec (KUNA) -- PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has described the recent meeting in Aden of the Palestinian Resistance units as one of the most important Palestinian meetings, one which will have tangible positive results in the Palestinian arena.

Speaking in an interview with AS-SIYASAH, published here today, 'Arafat added: "We have reviewed the course of Palestinian-Arab relations in the present stage, in which the United States has been throwing its entire weight behind the Zionist entity and supplying it with all the means and capabilities for murder, destruction and annihilation of our people and our national rights in a feverish attempt to subdue our nation and people and to impose the Zionist de facto entity on us."

"In this stage, which is one of the greatest challenges," 'Arafat said, "we declare anew our rejection of all U.S. and Zionist plans and initiatives headed by autonomous rule and the Camp David accord." He described these accords and agreements as "a plot intended to shatter the unity of the Palestinian people and to ensure implementation of the Zionist-American plan in the Arab area, particularly after our heroic stand in the battles of Lebanon."

'Arafat stressed that "it will be impossible to destroy the successes already achieved by the Revolution and the cause, to trick the PLO, or deceive us with crooked formulas of peace that in essence do not correspond whatsoever to our national aspirations."

Speaking of the loss of Beirut as an advanced position, 'Arafat said: "Although the Resistance has lost Beirut as a position, it suffices that it is now living in the warm bastion of revolutionary Aden. The Palestinian Revolution's fighters feel that they are not alone and that they only represent the spearhead in the cultural struggle for existence."

He pointed out that the Zionist invasion was a cultural invasion and not one of tanks against tanks or of guns alone.

'Arafat said that the Revolution only lost Beirut when it lost the Jabal area, from which the enemy came. This is because the Revolution was not permitted to have any military, political, or information presence in the Jabal area. The enemy controlled Beirut from the Jabal area with the collaboration of the Phalangists, but they were bogged down at the gates of steadfast Beirut for 2 months, during which they stood impotent and unable to enter. The Zionist enemy only entered Beirut after the heroes of the Palestinian Revolution withdrew from Beirut.

Speaking of the massacres at Sabra and Shatila, 'Arafat said: "These will never intimidate us. Our Palestinian people will continue to fight and struggle as long as Palestinian women continue to bear children. History belongs to the peoples and the peoples are the ones who make history. The Palestinian people possess the faith and will to fight as well as clear objectives; consequently, they are not afraid of sacrifice."

'Arafat denounced the attitudes of former Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis and of his foreign minister (Fu'ad Butrus). He also denounced President Bashir al-Jumayyil, saying: "May God never forgive these three men who have betrayed the Arabs in general and the Palestinians in particular." He pointed out that "it was they who let the Israelis into Beirut, at a time when Lebanon could have benefited from our presence on its soil." Elaborating, 'Arafat said: "We used to spend about \$600 million in Lebanon, whereas Israel has come only to loot not to spend any money."

Concluding, 'Arafat said: "I am following up our major problems with some countries, the question of the confiscation of our arms and many major difficult political and other problems." He affirmed that the Palestinian Resistance will continue to fight and will triumph over plots.

'ARAFAT APPOINTS OFFICE DIRECTOR IN AMMAN

JN150741 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 15 Dec 82 p 1

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has decided to appoint Khattab Abu ar-Rubb director of the PLO office in Amman.

This position has been vacant for a long time; a charge d'affaires was administering the PLO's affairs in Amman.

BOLIVIA GRANTS PLO OFFICE DIPLOMATIC STATUS

JN141808 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 14 Dec 82

[Text] The PLO today received an official memorandum from the Bolivian Government in which it expresses its desire to grant the PLO office in La Paz full diplomatic status.

The memorandum contains the Bolivian Government's official recognition of the PLO as the Palestinian people's sole and legitimate representative in their military and political struggle to achieve their national objectives.

GULF AFFAIRSGCC JUSTICE MINISTERS AGREE ON ISLAMIC LAW BASE

LD141510 Kuwait KUNA in English 1002 GMT 14 dec 82

[Text] Riyadh, Dec 14 (KUNA) -- Justice ministers of the six Gulf states agreed last night to base their judicial systems and legislation on Islamic law.

The decision was reached last night at the end of two days of extensive deliberations by the six ministers forming the Gulf Cooperation Council founded in May last year.

Experts from the six ministries in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar and Oman will meet to put the agreement into practice, the GCC secretary-general, Abdallah Bisharah, told a press conference.

Bisharah told newsmen that the conference was concerned with laying down the framework and general principles that will govern GCC future relationships in this connection.

The conference, which was the first of its kind, agreed on exchanges (in) expertise, research and publication of legal periodicals and setting up a number of sub-committees to consider unification of criminal laws in the six states.

Another committee has been formed to explore the possibility of unifying commercial and ownership laws embodied in the economic integration agreement endorsed by the GCC summit in Manama last November.

Kuwait's justice, legal and administrative affairs minister, Shaykh Salman Qu'ayid, who represented his country at the conference, expressed satisfaction with the results reached.

Speaking at the end of the two-day conference, Qu'ayid said the ministers were primarily concerned with rapprochement between the presently applied laws in their countries prior to their eventual unification.

He said a committee of experts has been entrusted with looking into possible revision of the civil and commercial laws in [word indistinct] of the Islamic shari'a which he said fits all [words indistinct].

Agreement has also been reached on publishing a monthly bulletin on legislation and laws of interest in the six states and those engaged in legislation based on the spirit and dictates of the Islamic shari'a.

The General Secretariat of the GCC will shortly organize a series of legal and legislative seminars and study courses to promote the joint Gulf process in this field, the Kuwaiti minister said.

The Bahraini justice minister, Shaykh 'Abdallah ibn Khalid Al Khalifah, gave a statement to newsmen on the same lines.

GCC OIL OFFICIALS MEETING OPENS IN KUWAIT

LD141406 Kuwait KUNA in English 1053 GMT 14 Dec 82

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 14 (KUNA) -- Oil officials of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council started debating here Tuesday means of coordinating the marketing of oil, gas and petroleum by-products.

Undersecretaries of Oil Ministries of Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and the UAE will discuss following up the marketing of oil within and outside the Gulf Council in addition to the exchange of data between concerned parties to avoid futile competition and duplication of petroleum ventures.

The conferees are further expected to review the international energy situation particularly the industrial countries' efforts to develop oil alternatives.

The undersecretaries will further discuss marine transportation and cooperation in this field.

The conferees will review a plan tabled by the General Secretariat to implement the oil representatives' recommendations in their latest meeting in Riyadh on June 20 particularly those pertaining to trade transactions and inter-Gulf dealings in oil derivatives.

Head of the Bahraini delegation Shaykh 'Isa 'Abdallah Al Khalifah opened the meeting and appreciated Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) for hosting the conference.

The meeting grouping officials responsible for marketing oil, gas and oil derivatives in the GCC national oil companies listened to a statement by the Kuwaiti delegation's head and managing director for marketing affairs at the KPC Shaykh 'Ali Jaber Al'ali who wished the Gulf officials all success in the interest of the member states.

A representative of the (GCC) General Secretariat Abdul Salam Al Wase then noted that the council's domestic markets are similar to a great extent along with the destination of exports.

The two-day meeting is of [word indistinct] importance in view of the industrial countries' progress in developing energy alternatives and discovering new oil fields, Wase emphasized.

The conference should coordinate the members' efforts to overcome obstacles that might hamper our future march, he concluded.

KUWAIT

KUWAITI, VENEZUELAN OIL MINISTERS HOLD TALKS

LD132034 Kuwait KUNA in English 1600 GMT 13 Dec 82

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 13 (KUNA) -- Kuwait Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah met here today with his Venezuelan counterpart Humberto Calderon Berti for a broad line revision of market developments.

Discussions concentrated on market trends, pricing and production as well as the specific stand of each OPEC member in relations to the organization's benchmark price of 34 dollars barrel, informed sources told KUNA.

Both Kuwait and Venezuela were reported to hold identical views over the need to maintain the present price structure and exerting maximum efforts to defend it, those sources added.

The Venezuelan minister arrived here last night. He told reporters that the main purpose of his current tour is to "reach an agreement on production levels and programming".

Kuwait was the third leg of a regional tour which already took Berté to Algeria and Saudi Arabia. The minister scheduled to leave here Tuesday to the United Arab Emirates and later to Tehran. OPEC oil ministers are scheduled to hold a ministerial meeting next [word indistinct].

Calderon on Talks

LD141150 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0732 GMT 14 Dec 82

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 14 Dec (KUNA) -- Humberto Calderon Berté, Venezuelan minister of energy and mining, declared today that his country and Kuwait are in complete agreement on the need for defending the current basic price of oil and on the importance of drawing up a program for defining production quotas in order to protect prices and ensure a balance in the oil market.

In a statement to KUNA prior to his departure for Iran today for a few hours' visit, before he returns to [word indistinct], the Venezuelan minister said: "We are completely satisfied with the results of our meeting with Kuwaiti Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali Al-Khalifah as-Sabah." He described their views on the current oil situation as "identical."

He added that Kuwait and Venezuela have agreed that it is important that efforts be continued for reaching an agreement at Vienna first with regard to defending the price structure and, second, with regard to drawing up a program for production quotas for the OPEC member countries, with a view to protecting prices and ensuring stability in the market.

He added that he sensed similar views on such matters from Saudi Arabia and Algeria and added: "This makes me feel more optimistic."

The Venezuelan minister pointed out that the most prominent problem facing the OPEC member countries now and in the near future is the considerable drop in demand for oil and weak economic conditions in the developing and advanced countries alike. The best way to solve this problem, he said, is (?to protect) prices and maintain them on their present level for at least the next 2 years. He denied that OPEC is planning to "review" the production quotas of its member countries. He said: "We cannot do this with the others. But we are agreed on the need for the programming of production."

He strongly denied that OPEC would become divided should the 13 member countries fail to reach agreement on oil prices and quotas at their forthcoming meeting in Vienna. He affirmed that OPEC will continue for many years to come, adding: "We are all fully convinced that our current situation is extremely good."

Last night the Venezuelan minister demanded in a statement here that Iran be convinced to join ranks with the other OPEC member countries. In a statement to KUNA, he said: "We cannot allow Iran to feel isolated as this will not serve our interests or theirs as OPEC members."

SAUDI ARABIA

AL-MADINAH: FAHD TO PAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO SYRIA

GF092030 Jidda AL-MADINAH in Arabic 6 Dec 82 p 1

['Awad al-Qahtani dispatch from Riyadh]

[Text] His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz is to continue his visits to Arab and friendly Islamic countries to achieve unity and solidarity for the sake of establishing peace in the Middle East.

AL-MADINAH has learned that his majesty will make an official visit to Syria during the next few days. Political observers pin high hopes on this royal visit for reinforcing Arab solidarity and unifying Arab stands at these crucial circumstances.

The Fes summit charged his majesty with clearing the Arab air and helping the end the hostilities between Iraq and Iran. Fahd's visit to Algeria and Morocco was within this important national framework.

KUNA Report

LD141056 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0743 GMT 14 Dec 82

[Text] Kuwait, 14 Dec (KUNA) -- AL-ANBA' today reported that political circles in Riyadh expect the Saudi capital to witness intense political activity to be started by the Saudi monarch, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, in paying a 2-day visit to Damascus after his return to Riyadh next Thursday.

The circles added that although informed Saudi sources "did not specify a date for this anticipated and important visit," political observers, however, expect King Fahd's visit to Damascus to take place after his return to Riyadh, since the Saudi monarch is presently in Spain.

They said that political observers "have linked King Fahd's visit to Damascus with the agreement at the latest Fes summit conference that Saudi Arabia extend its efforts to settle Syrian-Iraqi differences."

These sources stated that the issue of the Syrian-Iraqi dispute will be one of the topics concerning Damascus' relations with other Arab capitals, especially with the PLO and Amman.

The paper said "that despite a Palestinian source's denial of the existence of any mediation to settle differences between the liberation organization and Damascus, political sources have stated that Syrian-Palestinian relations will be dealt with during the coming talks between King Fahd and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad."

AL-ANBA' said that other subjects are expected to be dealt with at the talks connected with two main subjects: the initial results of the efforts by the seven-member committee set up by the Fes conference and agreement concerning holding a minisummit of the committee member states.

It added that the second main topic will be "discussion of Israeli occupation of Lebanon and what Damascus can do to help achieve withdrawal from this territory."

It said that political sources expect a number of Arab leaders to pay a working visit to Riyadh in the coming 2 weeks, within the framework of contacts carried out by Saudi Arabia with various Arab capitals. It is expected that the Jordanian monarch, King Husayn, will pay a visit to Riyadh after the conclusion of his visit to the United States, which is expected to end on the 20th of this month, to acquaint Saudi officials with the results of his talks with U.S. President Ronald Reagan.

These sources added that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat is expected to pay another visit to Riyadh during the last week of December to meet with King Fahd. 'Arafat paid a visit to Riyadh last week and had a meeting with Saudi Crown Prince 'Abdallah.

The paper quoted informed sources as having said that "the purpose of the Saudi political activities is to come to an agreement with specific Arab capitals about forthcoming Arab moves in light of the initial results of the mission of the seven-member committee."

COMMENTATOR ON U.S. INABILITY TO PRESSURE ISRAEL

GF101550 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 10 Dec 82

[Jasir 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Jasir commentary]

[Text] Has the United States been unable to convince Israel to withdraw its occupying forces from Lebanon? This is the question being asked by diplomats in the lobbies of the UN building in New York.

Following the submission of the draft Arab resolution by the Lebanese envoy in preparation for submitting it to the UN General Assembly, calling for the withdrawal of all non-Lebanese forces from Lebanon, diplomats started exchanging information, later confirmed by Lebanese press sources, indicating that Lebanon intends to ask for the UN Security Council's help in achieving the withdrawal of Zionist occupation forces from its territory if the U.S efforts -- which started long ago and have so far been unable to achieve such a goal -- fail.

These diplomatic predictions are timed with the recall of the U.S team headed by Philip Habib to Washington for consultations with senior U.S. Administration officials.

Observers believe this American move is meant to show the discontent of the U.S. Administration over the Israeli stand, which has thwarted U.S. efforts to achieve an early exit of non-Lebanese forces from Lebanon on the dates that the Americans wanted the withdrawals to take place.

While the Americans are under serious pressure from various Arab parties to accomplish a rapid withdrawal of the Israeli occupation forces from Lebanon, the Lebanese resort to the United Nations will make the U.S. Administration move quicker than ever before and resort to other methods, including putting more effective pressure on the Israeli enemy, because if the United States accepts a fait accompli, and falls into the trap of Israeli passiveness, it will certainly lose much of the prestige and credibility of its policy in the Middle East.

This will also apply to all the other U.S. initiatives aimed at consolidating peace in the Middle East, foremost of which is President Reagan's initiative, which observers see as being threatened by the stubbornness of the Israelis and their refusal to respond to the U.S. efforts. The failure of the United States in accomplishing a withdrawal from Lebanon will make the Arab states lose confidence in America's ability and the ability of its President to achieve anything in the interest of his initiative.

RIYADH URGES 'MORE VITAL' U.S. ROLE IN MIDEAST

LD142330 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 14 Dec 82

[Hashim Abduh Hashim commentary]

[Text] American envoy Philip Habib's visit to the region today represents what we believe will be a (?new) phase in American efforts regarding the establishment of security and stability in the region.

The American Administration, so it appears, has become convinced that it should assume a more vital role -- a role reflecting seriousness in the treatment of the (?oscillations) through which the peace efforts are passing and, in particular, Lebanon's entry into a state of total stability after its protracted tragedies.

When Habib and his two aides begin this new task, he is bound to realize that this tour could result either in escape from the many impasses surrounding the current efforts or admission of the state of incapability that Israel strives to perpetuate.

From the Lebanese angle, internal events are interacting in a manner that raises many questions about the final aims of the Israelis. [Words indistinct] sides against each other in a broad attempt to pressure the Lebanese to accept the need to conclude a peace treaty with Israel.

From the Palestinian angle, (?there is a cautious watch) on what Habib could offer to the Middle East problem and the real owners of right, so that the Palestine Liberation Organization can outline its future postures. [Words indistinct] American efforts in the region, to proceed with political action or adopt another course or make suitable decisions toward the parties concerned.

From the Syrian angle, the Syrian brothers have nothing left to say regarding the question of the Israeli presence in Lebanon after they rejected the timing of the withdrawal of the Syrian and Israeli forces present in Lebanon. Hence, they are waiting for what Habib could offer committing the Israelis to leave Lebanon. [sentence indistinct]

As for the quarreling Lebanese factions, whether because of their traditional differences or as a result of the Israeli pressures the [word indistinct] position is (?to) find sufficient guarantees to ensure (?their) future safety. However, no one knows who could offer such guarantees, especially when an American mediator is unable to accomplish this in the shadow of the presence of lawful authority; it is supposed to be able to protect and be fair to all sides.

All these (queries) put large question marks around Habib's tour [words indistinct], which is multifaceted in an unprecedented manner after the duties of his aides were fixed [words indistinct].

What is now well-established is that the American card this time will put pressure on all levels and in all directions. It is clear that the American Administration has entered a new phase of conviction that the parties (?close) to the problem or capable of participating in some action [words indistinct].

Linking American interests to the existence of and backing for Israel has created many problems for America [words indistinct]. Israeli excesses have weakened confidence in the American role to such an extent as to threaten its departure [words indistinct].

Today, as he returns to the region, Habib definitely realizes all these facts. We do not imagine that he will be starting his tour this time in order to leave behind more questions. Time has passed and the desired achievement has not been realized. What we fear the most is that the Israelis will succeed in sucking away the enthusiasm of the American Administration to solve the problem, and the current efforts will once again enter oblivion.

We in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia stress that any mistake committed under the present conditions will lead to prolonging the search for solutions and will be very costly to all sides. However, we believe that this matter is now understood after the Arabs were careful to tell the American Administration the likely consequences if it did not [words indistinct] solutions to the Israeli leadership, which is benefiting from the waste of time.

KING FAHD CABLES YAR PRESIDENT ON EARTHQUAKE

GF140720 Jidda Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 14 Dec 82

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz has expressed his sincerest condolences to 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the YAR, and to the families of the martyrs of the earthquake that hit parts of the fraternal YAR and resulted in damage and casualties in the stricken areas. The cable reads:

His Excellency President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the YAR, San'a':

With great pain and sorrow, I have learned of the quake that hit parts of the fraternal YAR and resulted in damage and casualties in the stricken areas.

While conveying to Your Excellency the sincerest fraternal feelings and sincere emotions in this redoubtable calamity which has befallen your fraternal country, I extend to Your Excellency and to the families of the martyrs my sincerest cordial condolences. I hope that God Almighty will bestow His bountiful mercy upon your martyrs, make paradise their abode, and grace you and their families with patience and comfort.

Say not but what the patient does: Verily, we are God's and unto God shall we return. I affirm to you that Saudi Arabia, its government and people, share with their brothers in fraternal Yemen their grief, and ask God Almighty to alleviate their grief and protect them from calamities and discomfort.

I wish Your Excellency health and safety, and the fraternal Yemeni people peace and tranquillity. May God keep you.

PDRY

CHAIRMAN CONDOLES YAR PRESIDENT ON EARTHQUAKE

GF132100 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 13 Dec 82

[Excerpts] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, today made a telephone call to Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the armed forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress in the northern part of the homeland, and expressed his condolences and the condolences of our Yemeni people in the southern part to the masses in the northern part of the homeland and to the families of the victims of the earthquake that hit many areas in the northern part of the homeland and caused heavy losses of life and property.

Furthermore, the Supreme People's Council Presidium announced today, following an emergency meeting held under the chairmanship of Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, that a 3-day mourning period will begin today, during which the flags will be flown at half-mast and all forms of celebrations in the PDRY will be cancelled.

BRIEFS

AGREEMENT WITH USSR RATIFIED -- PDRY Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad issued a decree today ratifying the PDRY-USSR agreement on the special loan for the electrothermal station signed in Moscow on 16 September 1982. [Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 12 Dec 82 GF]

YARPRESIDENT VISITS EARTHQUAKE-STRICKEN AREAS

GF141357 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Dec 82

[Excerpt] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the armed forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, accompanied by Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, vice president and member of the Standing Committee, and a number of senior state and government officials and army and police officers, this morning paid an inspection visit to the areas stricken by the tremor which hit a large number of villages in Dhamar Province and caused great losses of life and property, especially in ('Ans), Hada, Jahran, and Anis.

During this visit, the brother leader president supervised relief operations which have been in progress since yesterday, inspected the conditions of the citizens harmed by the tremor, and conveyed to them the condolences and sympathy of the government and people on this sorrowful incident. He called on them to accept God's fate and divine decree and use wisdom and patience in this disaster and cooperate with the sons of the armed forces and security forces by shouldering the responsibility of saving their brothers still under the rubble and maintaining their properties. He affirmed that the political leadership will offer further assistance in relief and medical aid.

Addresses Relief Forces

GF150530 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 14 Dec 82

[Speech by President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih before the armed and security forces on 14 December -- place not given -- recorded]

[Excerpt] In the name of God, the most gracious, the most merciful. Brothers, children of the armed and security forces: Good morning. We praise all the efforts being made by every officer and soldier in our armed and security forces in all three branches -- the ground forces, the navy, and the air force. We highly value the role of the valiant air force, the officers and soldiers of our military units, and the honorable citizens who have been rescuing the victims of this tragedy that struck our people at noon yesterday.

Brother soldiers and officers in our valiant armed forces, you now have to go to the regions stricken by this calamity to provide first aid, rescue citizens, children, women and old people, preserve security and stability, protect the possessions of citizens, and deter whoever is tempted to undermine the rights of citizens.

From this position, I direct the honorable citizens nearby to assist the armed and security forces, the popular forces, and our air hawks in performing their human duty in rescuing the old, women, and children.

I also express my gratitude and appreciation to the men of the Sabra camp [Palestinian forces camp in YAR] who stood alongside our valiant armed and security forces during rescue and salvation operations.

Receives Condolence Cables

GF141552 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Dec 82

[Excerpts] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the armed forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, received condolences and sympathy cables from Saudi King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz; Libyan leader Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi; Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Saudi crown prince and first deputy prime minister; and Jordanian Crown Prince Hasan ibn Talal.

The cables expressed grief and sadness over this redoubtable incident, to which our country was subjected and as a result of which hundreds of our Yemeni sons were victims.

The cables also affirmed that these fraternal countries share our people's pain and express the readiness of these fraternal countries to contribute fully to relief operations and reconstruction of the villages subjected to this painful disaster.

The brother leader president and secretary general of the General People's Congress has sent thank you cables in response.

PRIME MINISTER UPDATES CASUALTY FIGURES

GF150546 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 14 Dec 82

[Excerpt] Brother Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, prime minister, Standing Committee member, and chairman of the Supreme Committee for Salvation and Followup, commented on the latest figures obtained on the human and material losses from the regrettable earthquake. He said that the latest information, received from the advanced operations in Dhamar Province at 1900 today, states that the earthquake has so far affected 142 villages and towns; the total number of deaths has reached 1,082 and the total number of injured citizens has reached 1,140.

RELIEF WORK CONTINUES IN DHAMAR PROVINCE

GF141325 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Dec 82

[Excerpt] A relief committee has been formed and distributed among four areas stricken by the earthquake to distribute primary relief aid. The areas are: ('Ans), Hada, Jahran, and Anis. Men of the armed forces, public security, military colleges, and [words indistinct] have gone to the stricken areas to assist in rescue work and in recovering bodies from beneath collapsed buildings.

Medical teams from San'a', Ta'izz, Al-Hudaydah, Yarim, and from various provinces in the country have arrived in Dhamar. Members of these teams have been distributed among the stricken areas.

Many citizens have gone to the hospital in Dhamar and to health centers throughout the district to donate blood to the earthquake victims. A large number of cranes have arrived to remove the rubble and rescue the victims.

San'a' hospitals continue to receive victims from the areas stricken by yesterday's earthquake in the Dhamar district. The capital's hospitals have been placed on a state of alert and are ready to receive and quickly treat patients. Thanks to the directives of the president and secretary general of the General People's Congress, Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, hospitals have been (?mobilized) to provide all facilities in carrying out their duty and rescue those victims from the stricken areas who can be rescued.

As of 1200 today San'a' hospitals had received about 300 casualties, including 4 dead. In a statement to Saba' News Agency, a Health Ministry official said that most of the cases admitted to San'a' hospitals are serious and have come from the field hospitals the Health Ministry set up in the stricken areas -- field hospitals that have been equipped with first aid and all other facilities to rescue the wounded, who are being removed from beneath the rubble by rescue teams.

From the early hours of today hundreds of our noble Yemeni people have converged on blood banks in San'a' and on provincial hospitals to donate blood to victims of the earthquake in Dhamar Province.

SAUDI MEDICAL TEAM ARRIVES IN SAN'A' 14 DEC

GF141545 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Dec 82

[Text] A medical mission from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia consisting of 10 doctors, 2 anesthesiology and x-ray specialists, and 2 surgical technicians arrived in San'a' this morning. Three Saudi planes, two carrying medicine and one carrying a mobile hospital, also arrived. The head of the medical mission, Dr Ahmad al-Hakami, made a statement to Saba' News Agency, in which he said: The medical mission that arrived in San'a' is only the first. King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and minister of defense and aviation, have issued directives to the concerned departments in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to provide relief needed by the YAR. He added that the mobile hospital is equipped with an operating room, a refreshment room, and an anesthetizing room and that it was prepared in half an hour.

The Saudi medical mission has begun to treat the wounded coming from the earthquake area. The medical mission was received by Brothers Ahmad al-Khidir, under secretary of the Health Ministry, and members of the committee assigned to receive medical aid from fraternal and friendly countries.

MUBARAK INTERVIEWED ON MIDDLE EAST PEACE ISSUES

OW131703 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 13 Dec 82 pp 113-118

[Interview with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak by editor Volkshard Windfuhr in Cairo -- date not given]

[Text] SPIEGEL: Mr President, you will be visiting the Federal Republic at a time when the Middle East situation has been aggravated again....

Mubarak: Since I wanted to visit the FAO in Rome, I thought it appropriate to also meet with new German Federal Chancellor Kohl on that occasion. I am acquainted with him from previous visits to Germany.

SPIEGEL: You will certainly also want to explain your views on the Middle East problem.

Mubarak: The Federal Republic plays a leading political role in the European Community. Therefore, an exchange of opinions on all problems is the main purpose of my visit.

SPIEGEL: At the center of international interest in the Middle East are the Arabs peace plan of Fes and U.S. President Reagan's plan. Can the two peace initiatives be linked?

Mubarak: At present there are three Middle East peace projects: They all have the single goal of peace in the Middle East.

SPIEGEL: Is there a possibility of combining these three proposals for a settlement into one compromise formula?

Mubarak: You see, the plan decided on at the Arab summit in Fes is excellent. However, it won't be able to get things moving.

SPIEGEL: You think the Arab plan is good, but you don't give it any chance of success?

Mubarak: ...Egypt agreed to the Reagan initiative because it contains positive elements for a settlement of the Middle East problem. We have questions about some points of the Reagan plan, but we can clarify these at the negotiating table later on. Thus the Reagan plan is at present the most promising of all existing Middle East plans. The U.S. President has committed himself personally in this respect. The effectiveness of the plan is related to the nature of U.S.-Israeli relations -- something that doesn't have to be explained. We will postpone the Egyptian-French initiative for the time being until the Reagan plan starts showing some effect.

SPIEGEL: Can the U.S. plan and the Fes plan be connected?

Mubarak: I can't answer that in the affirmative, because opinions on this are contradictory. If it were possible to make Israel accept the Fes peace plan, the case would already be settled and we would no longer have to worry about the subject.

SPIEGEL: However, Israel isn't playing along.

Mubarak: Yes. Israel doesn't accept the Fes resolutions. The result is that the U.S. plan has the greatest chance to be implemented because the U.S. President said he was determined to make this plan succeed.

SPIEGEL: In addition to Israel, the PLO has also rejected the Reagan plan. This has just become clear at the PLO Central Council meeting in Damascus. PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat called the U.S. initiatives "capitulationist projects." Is there a way out?

Mubarak: The Palestine Central Council in no way represents all Palestinians. Rather, they are represented by the Palestine National Council which will meet in Algiers in January to decide on the Reagan plan.

SPIEGEL: You attach only secondary importance to the PLO Central Council decision?

Mubarak: You know that when the PLO Central Council meets in Damascus, this means that it must reject the plan because Damascus disagrees and for certain reasons will not consent to any proposals for a settlement. That's regrettable. However, in Algiers the National Council will have the opportunity to freely decide on the Reagan plan, without being under pressure from any side, so as to help the Palestinian cause.

SPIEGEL: Aren't you being too optimistic?

Mubarak: I wouldn't say I am an optimist in this matter. However, I do hope that the Palestinians will come to a reasonable decision in Algiers that is in their own interests.

SPIEGEL: The Syrians reject the Reagan plan. They aren't waging an overt war with Israel, but they also don't want to negotiate with the Jewish state.

Mubarak: Yes, I am irritated by that. Ever since Egypt made peace with Israel, the Syrians have received financial aid from the Arab states, because they now allegedly support the cause of Palestine and are waging war against Israel. Then came the Lebanon war, however, and what happened there is no secret.

SPIEGEL: Israeli and Syrian troops clashed in Lebanon without large-scale war breaking out.

Mubarak: At the Arab summit in Fes, however, Syria agreed to a peaceful solution, and in Damascus the Syrians have made it clear to the Palestinians that they will not wage war against Israel. I really don't know what the Syrians want. Nobody knows that.

SPIEGEL: Couldn't it be that Syria's intransigent attitude is connected with Israel's intransigent attitude on the Golan issue?

Mubarak: We had agreed with Israel that what occurred along the Egyptian front -- a pullout within the framework of a negotiated settlement -- should be repeated on the Syrian front. However, the Syrians didn't want a solution at all. They are apparently perfectly satisfied with the present situation -- the Golan remains with the Jews and Damascus in turn collects money for this from the Arabs. I'm saying this in all frankness. By their behavior, the Syrians are preventing any kind of negotiations. What's in it for them, anyway, if they put the PLO Central Council under pressure to reject the Reagan initiative? They ought to explain their logic to us!

SPIEGEL: Isn't Syria's refusal to negotiate with Israel a means of pressure as well?

Mubarak: What does Syria have to offer for solving the problem? It may well be that it profits from the situation as it is. We see the example of Lebanon where the Syrians have strong military units stationed. They also have missile launching bases -- far more than we had at the Suez Canal at the time of the October war. We had 13 missile positions at that time, whereas in the Lebanese highlands of Al-Biq'a, Syria has 21 missile bases equipped with the latest models.

SPIEGEL: Damascus claims that its troops have been stationed in Lebanon to protect the country and the Palestinians.

Mubarak: What have the Syrians achieved in Lebanon? Were they able to protect Lebanon's national territory? Not at all. Israel marched up to Beirut and defeated the Syrian forces. The Syrian president subsequently admitted in Rabat that he is incapable of waging war against Israel, the world's number three military power. We want to know what the Syrians now have in mind. We want to work realistically and pragmatically; we want to proceed from reality and not from illusion. Utopian ideas only harm the peoples in the end.

SPIEGEL: Considering the Syrian-Palestinian defeat in Lebanon, wouldn't it be imperative to withdraw all non-Lebanese troops so as to extricate sorely-afflicted Lebanon from the conflict with Israel?

Mubarak: Let me remind you of Anwar as-Sadat's warning: "Hands off Lebanon!" All foreign troops must leave Lebanon so that Lebanon can live. This in turn points to a solution the Palestinian problem because, like any other people, the Palestinians have a right to a homeland.

SPIEGEL: To many Palestinian civilians, Lebanon had already become a substitute homeland.

Mubarak: We discussed this point with the Americans when they brought the PLO fighters out of Lebanon. We made it clear to them that this does not solve the problem and that lasting peace in this region will be possible only when the Palestinian problem has been solved.

The Palestinians need a country of their own where they can live instead of settling in Lebanon -- some here, some there. The dispersion of the Palestinians only has a dazing effect. The problem has just been distributed over other regions.

SPIEGEL: Several PLO factions have adopted the Syrian attitude and rejected the Reagan plan. They refuse to withdraw their troops from Lebanon. Palestinian leaders are making controversial statements on other subjects. Do you think this will ever change?

Mubarak: It is unfortunately true that the Palestinians in Syria listen to the Syrians while the Palestinians in other Arab countries are influenced by the governments there. I wish all Palestinian factions would make the Palestinian concern their main concern and would look after their country and people instead of concerning themselves with the problems of other Arab countries.

SPIEGEL: Do you share the anxiety of political observers that the worldwide capital of sympathy accrued by the Palestinians in Lebanon might diminish again if the Palestinian leadership continues to be unable to make a decision on the way they want to follow?

Mubarak: The Palestinian problem will die unless they exploit the favorable international attitude toward them and if they continue to be internally divided. If they fail to get together for concerted action and a joint decision, they will destroy future Palestinian generations.

SPIEGEL: Israel is trying to prejudice a solution, as shown by Israel's settlement policy on the West Bank.

Mubarak: Israel is building one settlement after another while we Arabs cling to slogans. Let us proceed realistically and tackle things directly. I hope that those concerned will realize that things just cannot go on as they are and that the present attitude serves Israel's plans to annex the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

SPIEGEL: The PLO leadership recently sent leading personalities to Cairo. Have the recent Palestinian-Egyptian contacts yielded any results?

Mubarak: The Palestinian-Egyptian contacts have been continuing to the present. We are trying to make the Palestinians come to agreement with Jordan so that negotiations can finally take place -- negotiations on the basis of the Reagan plan. We now need the determination to solve the Palestine problem. To oppose this means that Israel will build an increasing number of settlements and the Palestine problem will be automatically settled in this way.

SPIEGEL: For some time now, a visit to Cairo by PLO leader Ysair 'Arafat has been at issue. Have you invited him?

Mubarak: On one of his trips, 'Arafat said he wanted to be invited by Egypt, although he doesn't need an invitation. He is welcome here at any time to discuss the peace process and bring it closer to a solution.

SPIEGEL: Should he accept the "Jordanian solution" envisaged in the Reagan plan?

Mubarak: Our advice to the PLO is: "Negotiate with Jordan on how you want to be represented during peace negotiations. Sit down at the negotiating table!" After all, until the 1967 war, the West Bank was part of Jordan. We would welcome Jordan joining the peace negotiations so as to allow the Palestine problem to be finally solved. As far as I know, Yasir 'Arafat and King Husayn are currently discussing how the Palestinians are to be represented in future peace negotiations.

SPIEGEL: A Palestinian government-in-exile in Cairo could be another way to help get peace negotiations going.

Mubarak: By God, we proposed that to them more than once, but they refused.

SPIEGEL: Is your offer still valid?

Mubarak: That's in the past. The situation is different today. We are dealing with the Reagan plan and now want to finally talk about negotiations.

SPIEGEL: Regarding Israel, what is your advice to 'Arafat and the PLO?

Mubarak: On various occasions, we have stressed the necessity for Israel and the PLO to announce their readiness for mutual recognition. Even if Israel were to refuse to recognize the PLO, this shouldn't prevent the PLO from announcing that it is ready to recognize Israel.

SPIEGEL: Why?

Mubarak: Because in that case, the United States would take up a dialogue with the Palestinians, as it has already announced it would. In my view, things should proceed as follows: The PLO recognizes Israel and then, if this step is not reciprocated by Israel or the United States, it should withdraw its recognition.

SPIEGEL: The PLO is hesitant. It apparently doesn't believe the U.S. promise that if it recognizes Israel, the United States would establish contacts with it.

Mubarak: The point here is not merely a promise. The Americans have more than once clearly said they would negotiate with the PLO as soon as it recognizes Israel and accepts UN Resolution 242.

SPIEGEL: In view of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, PLO leaders, Arab governments, and segments of the Egyptian opposition are demanding the abrogation of the Camp David peace accords between Egypt and Israel. Do you consider this to be a possible step?

Mubarak: How could that be possible? Camp David is a fact. Camp David enables me to discuss the Palestine problem. By the way, it is just a name that elicits emotional responses in some people.

SPIEGEL: ... which has, however, also been enough to largely isolate Egypt in the Arab world.

Mubarak: I assure you, those who call on us "to let go of Camp David" are not convinced themselves of what they say. They rejected it once, and for this reason they believe they can't move from that position now.

SPIEGEL: Why didn't you react more sharply to the Beirut massacre?

Mubarak: What more should we have done? Who went as far as we did? What Arab or non-Arab country? I think we attacked Israel more vehemently than any other country over these massacres. In addition, we recalled our ambassador for consultations.

SPIEGEL: You could have broken off relations with Israel.

Mubarak: That's what some people asked us to do, to be sure. However, if we break off relations, will this help the Palestine problem? No. If, following the massacres, I had withdrawn the ambassador and broken off relations with Israel, this would have given Begin the opportunity of a lifetime. He then would have said: "Look at the Arabs. They don't keep their word and don't respect treaties." Our motto is logic and reason. I want us to always remain realistic.

SPIEGEL: When will the Egyptian ambassador return to Israel?

Mubarak: Our ambassador will return only when an agreement has been reached on the withdrawal of the Israelis from Lebanon.

SPIEGEL: How do you assess the prospects of improving relations between Egypt and Israel, relations that have been bad since the invasion of Lebanon?

Mubarak: This depends entirely on how Israel behaves. I hope that Israel will work for peace so that its relations will improve not only with Egypt but also with its other neighbors.

SPIEGEL: President as-Sadat contended that the October 1973 war was the final war between Egypt and Israel. Do you feel that way as well?

Mubarak: In keeping with the agreements we have signed, we adhere to peace. We have never talked of war.

SPIEGEL: Many Israelis are not convinced of this very much anymore.

Mubarak: It is regrettable that Israel has lately been spreading reports that Egypt is constructing bases along the Suez Canal and is thus arming for another war. This idle talk is devoid of any basis. Egypt remains true to peace and is not preparing for war, unless Israel would like war. That would be a different matter. We want peace, because we are convinced that war never solves problems.

SPIEGEL: The Soviet Union would also have to contribute to a lasting peace in the Middle East. Was excluding Moscow the right thing to do?

Mubarak: If the Soviets have a plan for a solution, they should submit it to us. If the USSR can bring pressure to bear on Israel to move toward a peaceful peace solution, we would welcome this. However, is the Soviet Union really able to do this? What has it been able to achieve from 1967 until now? As soon as we have attained a final peace settlement, there will be no objection to the Soviet Union's participation in an international Middle East peace conference together with other states.

SPIEGEL: Egypt again has friendly relations with Iraq -- that country that enforced the Arab boycott against Egypt after the signing of the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty.

Mubarak: There are no special relations between us and Iraq. However, Iraq is an Arab and Islamic country just as ours is. Concerning this subject, I will merely state that we are supplying the Iraqis with certain kinds of weapons and ammunition to assist them in defending their country, but in no case to enable them to commit any transgressions on Iranian territory. Our arms assistance became necessary when a new military situation and an Iranian invasion began to take shape.

SPIEGEL: The situation has further intensified in the meantime. Suppose the Iranians succeed in crashing through and the Arab oil wells were seriously threatened, would Egypt intervene militarily?

Mubarak: Egypt is not the guardian of these states. In such a case, the Arab states would have to decide jointly what needed to be done. Danger to the Gulf is by no means a purely Egyptian affair.

SPIEGEL: Has Egypt sent military experts to Iraq or to the Gulf Emirates?

Mubarak: No. There may be some military personnel whose term of service has expired here and who are now engaged in Iraq. In addition, there are Egyptians living there whom Iraq has hired on contract.

SPIEGEL: You have military assistance agreements with other Arab states, for instance, with Sudan. Can Sudan count on your help if need be?

Mubarak: Our relationship with Sudan is unequivocal -- if necessary, we will help Sudan militarily; this is crystal clear.

SPIEGEL: Such a case might be a threat against Sudan by Libya. Sudan's President Numayri fears something of this sort, as does the chief of state of Chad, Hissein Habre...

Mubarak: I hope Al-Qadhdhafi will not invade Chad again. If he does, he will not only gain nothing but may well suffer serious harm himself.

SPIEGEL: What's the state of Egyptian-Libyan relations?

Mubarak: They are neither good nor bad. There are no relations of any kind between Libya and Egypt.

SPIEGEL: Al-Qadhdhafi is obviously betting on your domestic opponents. A few days ago, a huge trial opened in Cairo involving hundreds of religious fanatics.

Mubarak: There are fanatics throughout the world and not just in Egypt.

SPIEGEL: Still, in Egypt they assassinated the president. How do you propose to counteract the danger of religious extremism that can be seen beneath the surface?

Mubarak: Even though we are holding this trial, I contend that Egypt is far less susceptible to terrorism than all other countries in the world. We are watching the situation quite closely. There is greater security in Egypt than anywhere else in the world. We are in the process of solving the problems without, mind you, employing violent methods. We are perfectly aware that violence only triggers counterviolence.

SPIEGEL: What about the defendants who must now reckon with capital punishment? Will the trial end up in mass executions?

Mubarak: No, no, no. That is absurd. We are a civilized state. We have a functioning system of justice with prosecutors and judges who will hand down just verdicts.

SPIEGEL: Mr President, thank you for this interview.

GHALI TALKS TO AFRICAN ENVOYS ON OAU, CHAD

NC141939 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 14 Dec 82

[Text] Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, held a meeting this evening with the ambassadors of the African states in Cairo within the framework of the activity Egypt is undertaking to tackle the OAU crisis following the failure to convene the African summit conference which was scheduled to be held in Tripoli, Libya.

During the meeting, Dr Ghali affirmed that Egypt will exert all efforts so that the OAU can carry out its responsibilities and resume its meetings. He said that Egypt is prepared to attend any meeting held by the OAU in any capital other than Tripoli.

Dr Ghali explained Egypt's position on Chad. He affirmed Egypt's support of the government of Chadian President Hisssein Habre.

He also spoke about Egypt's interest in the next Nonaligned summit conference which is scheduled to be held in New Delhi next March. He explained the importance of the role that the African states must play, especially since they constitute an important bloc in the Nonaligned Movement.

Dr Ghali also explained to the African ambassadors the efforts which Egypt is exerting to achieve a just solution of the Palestinian problem and its efforts to solve the Lebanese problem.

HAYKAL: REAGAN DOES NOT INTEND TO IMPLEMENT PLAN

NC131636 Beirut MONDAY MORNING in English 6-12 Dec 82 pp 46-52

[Interview with Muhammad Hasanayn Haykal, a former editor of the Cairo newspaper AL-AHRAM, in Cairo by MONDAY MORNING reporter Mona as-Sa'id -- words within slant lines published in italics -- date not given]

[Text] It is conceivable that the Israelis will pull back or even pull out of Lebanon, Muhammad Hasanayn Haykal says, but that will not end Lebanon's agony.

Haykal, former editor of Egypt's "AL-AHRAM" and close confidant of the late President Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir, told me that whether the Israelis withdrew or stayed, the "crucial point" was that they could still reach into Lebanon and influence developments in it with no Arab power to challenge them.

The Lebanon events had ended the illusion that the Arabs' material resources were enough to balance the Israelis' military clout. Instead of pressuring Washington to stop the Israelis, the Arabs had been pressured by Washington to pull the PLO out of Beirut and allow the Israelis to conclude their campaign.

Israel was emerging as a mini-imperial power capable of imposing its will in the region, especially in Lebanon. In trying to resist the Israelis' withdrawal conditions, the Arabs' only weapon now was a weapon which they shared with Israel: the United States. And the United States was not interested in changing a situation in which the Arabs, frightened by Israel, were constantly running to the White House for help.

U.S. President Ronald Reagan proposed a peace plan on September 1 which the Arabs applauded and the Israelis rejected. What the Arabs did not know was that Reagan had made the proposal for one main reason -- to absorb the "anger and agony" of the Arab world after the Israeli assault on Beirut. He had no intention to use his power to apply the plan, because Israel was against it and "it is thanks to Israel that (the Americans) are now in a position to rule in the Arab world; it is thanks to Israeli arms that the Arabs are going to Washington with their hats in their hands."

The fate of the Arabs and Lebanon, both of whom were powerless to influence their future, would now depend on external "power equations," not least of which was the position of the Soviet Union.

It was not unlikely that the new Soviet leader, Yuriy Andropov, would adopt a more vigorous policy in the Middle East designed to bring the Soviet Union from the "peripheries" to the heart of the Arab world.

Haykal, who knows Andropov personally, "cannot imagine that the Soviets will forever... leave the core of the Arab world an open arena for the Americans." Moscow, he said, was more likely to take some kind of action now because international opinion was ripe for an anti-Israeli step: Israel was isolated and America, after humiliating the Arabs, was now provoking them "beyond belief," which meant that "one Soviet move in the right direction now can yield tremendous capital."

Apart from waiting for the external "power equations" to change the situation, all the Arabs could look forward to now was a period in the distant future when a "new Arab era" was bound to emerge, once more changing the balance of power with Israel, which was now at its peak and would before long begin its decline.

Haykal spoke with his usual confidence, sitting in the same Cairo home where, in March of this year, he predicted to me that Israel would launch an attack on south Lebanon after its April withdrawal from Sinai.

"And none of Arabs will do anything about it," he told me then.

Muhammad Hasanayn Haykal Talking to Mona as-Sa'id

I am reluctant to answer your questions, because what I have to say may sound offensive to Lebanon, and I do not want to slight a country that I have always admired.

But since you insist, this is how I see the situation in Lebanon and the Middle East:

You ask if I think the foreign troops will withdraw from Lebanon. You ask if the withdrawal will be partial or total, in the near or distant future, and on what terms.

I will answer your questions, although I believe the matter of withdrawal, while important, is by no means the crucial point, as I will explain later:

"Will there be a withdrawal? I can foresee a situation in which the Israelis and the Syrians will withdraw, at least partially. It will not come quickly or easily, but given a certain tolerant scenario, one can imagine it happening. I am by no means sure that a total withdrawal will happen, however, although that too is a possibility that cannot be discarded.

"On what terms are the Israelis likely to agree to pull out? For one thing, I believe that those who are saying that the Israelis must withdraw before the Syrians and the Palestinians are indulging in word games. The Israelis are going to be the last to withdraw. Unless something miraculous happens to change the current balance of power, the Israelis will withdraw only after the Syrians and Palestinians have withdrawn -- although they may pull back a few centimeters to allow the others to withdraw without loss of face. Let all the other parties say what they want; it is not a matter of words, but a matter of who can impose his will on the ground. Those are the realities of power, and anything else is so much hashish smoke.

The same applies to the rest of Israel's withdrawal conditions: Israelis in Dayr al-Qamar, Israeli goods in Lebanon, an Israeli diplomatic office in Beirut... who can prevent all that if Israel insists?

By the same token, Lebanon cannot escape a Lebanese-Israeli peace treaty except by Israeli generosity. The Israelis have to be persuaded that it is not in their interests to embarrass Lebanon by insisting on a peace treaty which would not help the Lebanese president in his efforts to rule as the president of all Lebanon, or in his efforts to appease Syria, or in his efforts to obtain Arab money for the reconstruction of his country (for the Arab oil states cannot discriminate between Egypt and Lebanon if Lebanon signs a peace treaty with Israel). So the effort being made now is to try to convince the Israelis that it would not be to their advantage to insist on such a treaty; that they can get a signed piece of paper on security arrangements (the Israelis are fond of collecting signatures), and then obtain the essence of most of their goals through unsigned economic, military and other arrangements on the ground.

I am sorry to say this, but these are the dictates of the balance of power in the Arab world now.

That is why I believe that withdrawal, be it partial or total, is not the crucial point. It will not solve Lebanon's problem or end Lebanon's agony.

Saudi Era

The crucial point is the horrible change in the balance of power around Lebanon.

What have we seen in Lebanon? We have seen the end of a stage in the Arab world -- a stage that I once called "the Saudi era," a stage in which we thought that we could compensate for the imbalance in Arab-Israeli military power with a balance of power based on our assets: our oil, our money, our political influence.

What happened in Lebanon proved that those who owned what we thought was an Arab leverage were in fact the hostages of the Americans, or at least that they needed the Americans more than the Americans needed them. Instead of them exercising a certain amount of pressure on the U.S. so that the U.S. could exercise pressure on Israel to stop at a certain limit, what actually happened was that the Israelis exercised pressure on the Americans, who in turn exerted pressure that led to the withdrawal of the PLO from Beirut and allowed the Israelis to continue to the end.

In other words, the balance of power that we thought we had was proved in Lebanon to be an illusion. The new Arab-Israeli balance of power is a one-to-eight ratio -- an overwhelming imbalance in favor of Israel, a country that has common borders with Lebanon.

This is what worries me, even frightens me -- to see where Lebanon lies on the map and how Israel can reach into it and influence what is happening in it.

Whether there is a withdrawal or not, and whether the withdrawal is partial or total, what is this new balance of power likely to create? It is likely to create a Lebanon which is completely open to the Israelis. Write in your treaties what you will, but in the end, the only thing that will matter is who can impose his will.

Some may say that Lebanon has never had real military power, and yet has always been able to maintain its independence and its territorial integrity. That is true, but Lebanon's ability to maintain its independence and its territorial integrity was due to a certain balance of power within the Arab world and between the Arabs and the Israelis: Today, we see the inter-Arab balance of power vanishing like drops of water in the sand, and we see Israeli power standing alone, with no Arab power in the vicinity of Lebanon that can face it or help Lebanon stand up to it.

I don't want to be insulting, but Lebanon is a battlefield. It should not be a battlefield, but the fate of a country does not depend on my likes and dislikes. I am one of those who feel the importance of the role Lebanon can play, who sees the Arab world's need for Lebanon as a clean lung to breathe with. But wishing does not make it so, and whether I like it or not, Lebanon is and has always been a battlefield. It was once a battlefield in which the various parties watched each other's moves and exchanged words -- words which, incidentally, expressed that fragile power balance that once existed. Now, we have a battle of a different nature: It is violent, aggressive, expansionist, imperial. That fragile balance has been proved illusory, and what we are seeing is the emergence of a mini-imperial power south of the Lebanese borders -- a power which, like it or not, is in fact responsible for the changes that have occurred in Lebanon.

What drove out the Palestinians and the Syrians, what reunified Beirut, was Israeli military power. Anybody who believes that the Israeli arms which were instrumental in achieving what was achieved in Lebanon, that this new, ugly balance of power, can vanish with the arrival of a new regime in Ba'abda is mistaken, in my opinion.

Lebanon, which has common borders with the region's emerging mini-imperial power, will unfortunately continue to be subjected to the worst of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The Arabs have used Lebanon in their confrontation with Israel, and now it is the Israelis' turn to use Lebanon in their effort to complete the disintegration of the Arab world.

Whether they succeed or not will depend neither on Lebanon nor on the Arab world. The matter is no longer in our hands, because with the present balance of power, there is no such thing as an Arab will. What happens to us from now on will be the result of power equations beyond the realm of our will.

What can Lebanon or the Arabs do about the present Israeli position? We could oppose it by our will if we had a will, which we don't. We could resist it by our strategic assets, financial and material, had we not proved the limitations of these assets, which we have. We could reject it with the help of our alliances, but who are our allies?

Europe is important as a moral force. A moral force can be effective in tipping the political balance of power if there is a state of parity, but it cannot turn a balance of power upside down. Europe can do nothing now because the situation has gone beyond its ability to influence.

Superpower Factors

The only power that can stand up to Israel and influence the situation is the United States, and the United States is the Arabs' only asset now -- an asset which we paradoxically share with the Israelis.

But what do the Americans really want? As I see it, what they want is to deal with a fragmented Arab world on which they can impose their will. They don't mind having a Arab world frightened by Israel and constantly running to Washington for help. Look what is happening in all our capitals: The utmost any of us did in protest was to either send a message to President Reagan or call the American ambassador in his capital. That is how we have been exercising our will. Why do you think the Americans would like to change this situation? It suits them perfectly.

I repeat: We cannot change the situation by our will or by our material assets or by our allies. External power equations will determine what happens to us in the period ahead.

For instance, will the new man in Moscow take action?

Yuriy Andropov is an intelligent man, an enlightened man, a man who knows the realities of power. He has been in the KGB, and the KGB is not only a spy thing; it is not the oppression machine some like to portray it as; it is the Soviet Union's security apparatus.

I know the man. I have met him three times, the last time in 1970, when An-Nasir made his famous "secret visit" to Moscow and arranged for increased Soviet presence in Egypt. The Egyptian delegation was very small: there was President An-Nasir, General Fawzi, our ambassador in Moscow at the time, Murad Ghalib and myself.

The Egyptian-Israeli war of attrition was going on at the time, and President an-Nasir had decided that the time was ripe for another step forward. He believed it was time to push the conflict from the local level to the superstate level, so that before going to a crossing, we would have tested all forces and explored all possibilities. Among the most important items in the plan was the intensification of Soviet presence in Egypt, for several reasons, the most important being the need to secure air defense for the depth of Egypt. It was decided that many Soviet experts and even planes and pilots would be sent to Egypt, and that was a step unprecedented in the history of the Soviet Union.

The decision was taken in January 1970, and then the Egyptian delegation was asked to attend a meeting in which the Soviet leaders would tell us the results of the deliberations of the Politburo and the marshals of the Soviet Union. The meeting, held in a gymnasium of the Lenin hills overlooking the Moscow River, was attended by all the members of the Politburo and about 14 Soviet marshals: In effect, the Soviet Union was there.

Brezhnev explained what the Soviet Union had agreed to do and then went on to emphasize that, in view of the gravity of the decision taken that day, secrecy was of the utmost importance.

I was sitting there taking notes when I felt someone tap me on the shoulder and call me "Gasparin (Mr.) Propaganda." (The word "propaganda" has ugly connotations for us, but in the Soviet Union, political propaganda is one of the highest forms of political activity.) I turned around, and there was Brezhnev. He pulled up a chair, sat behind me and started talking to me through an interpreter. He spoke of the urgent need to keep the decisions of that day secret. He said nothing must leak out, but he was depending on me to prepare a media campaign to counteract the leak should it occur.

I said, "Mr Chairman, I don't think it will be kept a secret." I said the Americans were bound to know about it within 15 days -- a month at the latest. He disagreed. President an-Nasir joined the discussion, supporting Brezhnev's view that everything must and could be kept secret.

That was when Andropov, who was then KGB, came in. He and Brezhnev talked. I couldn't understand what they were saying, since they were speaking Russian, of course, but I imagined that Andropov, being the KGB, would side with them. To my astonishment, however, he turned to me and said in very good English: "I agree with Gasparin Haykal. He is even more optimistic than I am. He thinks it can be kept secret for a month; I don't think it can be kept a secret for more than a week to 10 days."

It was finally agreed that Andropov and I would meet and work out a plan on how to deal with leaks, and then submit it to our bosses, Brezhnev and An-Nasir. We did meet, and, to my astonishment again, it was Andropov who came up with the answer: He said since a leak was inevitable, it would be better for us to arrange it ourselves, and that is how it was done.

At any rate, in the 40 minutes I spent with him, I was amazed by his ability to understand the realities of the modern world. He is a man who recognizes the importance of the Middle East and has seen how many Soviet outposts in this region were lost because of the traditional, over-cautious Soviet policy under Brezhnev.

Knowing what I know about Andropov, I do not rule out the possibility of a more active Soviet policy in the Arab world now. I don't see them keeping their position in Afghanistan, for example; but I don't see them deserting the Middle East either.

I think we are going to see a leadership in Moscow which, given any opportunity, will at least put on record that it is an interested party in the Middle East.

I cannot imagine that the Soviets will forever remain on the peripheries of the Arab world -- in Afghanistan, on their own borders, in the Indian Ocean, in the Horn of Africa -- and leave the core of the Arab world an open arena for the Americans.

The likelihood of a more active Soviet policy in the Middle East in the foreseeable future is increased by the USSR's preference for action in a favorable public-opinion mood. The Soviet Union has always preferred to act in support of a point of view when public opinion is saturated in favor of that point of view. Israel is now isolated. American backing of Israel has humiliated the Arab world, which, humiliated as it is, is still being provoked beyond belief. One Soviet move in the right direction now can yield tremendous capital.

Soviet policy in the Middle East -- in Syria, for instance -- may or may not become more energetic, but the fact remains that it is such external factors which will determine what happens in Lebanon in the period ahead.

The New Arabs

An Arab era has been ended by 15 heart-breaking years of lost opportunities. What can be more heart-breaking than the loss of the opportunity presented by the October war? We came out of that war with what everyone accepted as a strategic victory, and yet, less than 10 years later, the whole picture has changed: we have been robbed not only of the fruits of our victory but also of all our dreams, including the dream of a unified region, or at least a nation with a minimum level of will. The Arab world now is exhausted.

Nothing short of a miracle can put the pieces of the Arab world back together again in the foreseeable future. But by using vision, as opposed to sight, one can look beyond the foreseeable future and see a new Arab era emerging.

What we have now is a vacuum, and life cannot accept a vacuum. Israeli power is at its peak, and I can see Israel declaring itself an imperial power quite clearly. After the peak, the decline begins, and Israel will start to decline. The Arab world is at its nadir, and the time will come when it will rise. A new Arab era, a historical inevitability, will be created by the despair and disgust that we see all over the Arab world today. Like any historical process, it will take time; it will require new factors, new strategies, new policies. It is still far away, but it will come.

And when it comes, I believe the new Arab era will dawn in Egypt. But Egypt cannot act now. What can it do in an Arab world full of the desire of a collapsing era?

The last time I talked to your magazine (see Vol. XI, issue No. 509), I spoke of signs of Egyptian-Arab rapprochement. The signs are still there. Egypt has relations with most Arab countries now -- Saudi Arabia, Iraq, etc. It even has contacts with the PLO. Normally, in fact, Egypt has always been the Palestinian Revolution's most sincere friend: The Palestinians' access to Israeli-held territory has always been through Jordan and Syria, not Egypt; and their money has always come from the oil states, not for Egypt; so Egyptian-Palestinian friendship has always been based on free choice, with no element of pressure and no form of blackmail.

But with both the PLO and the Arab states, there is a point beyond which Egyptian relations cannot go.

In the case of the PLO, what has happened since As-Sadat's Jerusalem initiative has created an Egyptian-Palestinian problem which is difficult to overcome at this time. I believe the two are now aware how badly they need each other, but still, the most I can dream of regarding Egypt-PLO relations is an exchange of ideas. There has been talk about Yasir 'Arafat coming to Cairo, but I honestly cannot see how he can visit an Arab capital which is hosting an Israeli ambassador at this point. If it were up to me, I would not invite Yasir 'Arafat to come to Cairo, because it would embarrass him without giving him anything in return: Egypt has no influence on Israel, and Saudi Arabia has more influence on the United States than Egypt does.

(Parenthetically, I would point out that the PLO is in a very difficult situation now: Its forces are scattered, it has no bases near Israel, and the world's short memory will eliminate the impact the Beirut drama has had. There is no doubt that regardless of all this, the Palestinian issue will always be there, but whether the PLO will always be there as the active representative of the Palestinian people depends on the conduct of its leaders. Judging by the courage and wisdom they have shown, I am personally optimistic they will succeed. The challenge they face is a difficult one and it will sometimes require almost superhuman endurance, but I believe they have a good chance of succeeding.)

Regarding Egypt's current relations with the Arab states, they are strictly bilateral, dealing with issues of mutual bilateral interests and skirting the Arab issues. What is the point of Egypt reclaiming its seat in the Arab League? The Arab League has a defense treaty against Israel in which Egypt cannot be active. The Arab League has a policy of boycotting Israeli products and companies dealing with Israel which Egypt cannot cooperate in. The Arab League is a political forum where the policies of Israel can be attacked, and Egypt cannot participate in that; Egypt even abstained at the UN when they were talking about the expulsion of Israel after the annexation of the Golan Heights. Egypt cannot go back to the Arab League and the Arab summits.

Let us remember that we are witnessing the end of an Arab era, including all its mechanisms and its summits. Arab impotence has been completely exposed, and what is needed now is a fresh start. I believe the fresh start will come from Egypt. Egypt must reexamine its geography and its history and start a new cycle in its life based on a fresh, modern interpretation of its geographical necessities and its historical needs.

Turning from Egyptian-Arab to Egyptian-Israeli relations, I would point out that the developments in Lebanon did more than expose Arab frailty and end an Arab era; they confirmed the worst suspicions of the Egyptian people regarding Israel.

Egypt and Israel

I say "confirmed" because the suspicions were there before the Israeli assault on Lebanon. Any government in the Third World, where there is no real representation of the people, can sign an agreement, but it is when that agreement goes to the people that the country's real views about it emerge. The Egyptian Government thought it had a mandate from the people to sign a peace treaty with Israel, and the treaty was signed, having been presented to the people not so much as a treaty but as a promise of prosperity -- a prosperity which did not come. The parts of the treaty which concerned the government -- sending an ambassador, receiving an ambassador -- were implemented. But the part concerning normalization of Egyptian-Israeli relations was the real test, and it soon became apparent that the Egyptian people were not ready to normalize.

It may have been easy for one individual to jump over history and realities and to to Jerusalem, but the collective memory of a people is much sharper and the collective conscience of a society is, in the final analysis, far more important than the decision or adventure of an individual, whoever he may be. When the matter was put to the collective memory and conscience of Egypt, there was no normalization.

Initially, the first Israeli ambassador to Egypt was invited to various embassies who also invited Egyptians. Soon, any Egyptian invited by an embassy -- even an Egyptian from the bourgeoisie, who are receptive to ideas of peace and openness -- began asking whether the Israeli ambassador would be among the guests, and if the answer was yes, that Egyptian would not accept the invitation. Eventually, the Israeli ambassador found himself dealing with a very limited circle -- the representative of El Al, some public relations men, no more than that. He was dying of boredom, and he left. A second ambassador was sent -- a decent man, they said -- but the Egyptian people put him in the same deep freeze.

Egyptian rejection of Israel was there before the Lebanon developments, but those developments were very important because they confirmed Egypt's worst suspicions about the Israelis. After Lebanon, you could almost feel every Egyptian say, "Ah, that is what I have always thought." To the Egyptians, what happened in Lebanon was a vivid expression of their view of Israel as the Arabs' nightmare.

What the Israelis cannot understand is that Egypt is an integral part of the Arab world. That is why they consider it a breach of the treaty when they hear President Mubarak asserting Egypt's belonging to the Arab world. Perhaps some of their trouble with him is precisely this: that he expresses -- and to be fair to him, he does express -- the normal feelings of a reasonable Egyptian who is not trying to play God, about the realities of Egypt's geography, Egypt's history, Egypt's commitment, Egypt's belonging.

Israel's failure to realize that Egypt is an integral part of the Arab world can also explain its strange interpretation of the Camp David agreements, and that interpretation has been made very clear: As far as Israel is concerned, the Camp David agreements were an Egyptian-Israeli barter deal -- Sinai for the West Bank and Gaza, Egyptian territory for Egypt's will, an Egyptian-Israeli treaty against the rest of the Arab world.

Camp David is now one of the many goods displayed in a veritable bazaar of Middle Eastern peace plans: the Brezhnev plan, the Egyptian-French plan, the Fes plan, the Reagan plan.

But anyone can propose a plan. A viable plan is a plan that is backed by power and will. Going by those criteria, the only plan that comes close to qualifying as viable is the one Reagan proposed on September 1. The trouble with that plan is that although it has the power of America behind it, I am not sure it has the American will behind it.

I believe that plan was proposed in the aftermath of what happened in Beirut to absorb the anger and agony of the Arab world, and it has done that. I believe that although Reagan has the power to apply the plan, he does not have the intention to use that power. Why? Because Israel does not want it, and Israel is there on the ground.

Let us face facts: The Americans have never had it so good in the Arab world. It is an open theater for them. And they are closer to Israel than to any Arab state because it is thanks to Israel that they are now in a position to rule in the Arab world; it is thanks to Israeli arms that the Arabs are going to Washington with their hats in their hands.

Washington will not lean on Israel -- not for the Arabs' sake and not for Lebanon's sake.

JORDANIAN-PALESTINIAN COMMITTEE ISSUES STATEMENT

JN141252 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Dec 82

[Text] The following press statement was issued today at the end of the meetings that were held yesterday and today by the higher Jordanian-Palestinian committee:

Recognizing the requirements of the stage and the complications of the Palestinian issue; noting the commitment to saving the occupied Palestinian territory and championing the invariable national rights of the Palestinian people; aware of the historic and pan-Arab interests that place the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples in the position of being directly affected by the existing ceaseless Zionist aggression against the Palestinian people and their national homeland; and resulting from the intensive talks held during successive joint meetings since His Majesty King Husayn's meeting with Yasir 'Arafat on 9 October 1982. The Jordanian side, under Prime Minister Mudar Badran, and the Palestinian side, under PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, have agreed, in light of a joint conceptualization of the special distinguished relations between Jordan and a Palestine liberated from occupation, to continue to move together politically on all levels based on a commitment to the Fes summit resolutions and, within the context of joint Arab action, to marshal all resources and regain Arab and Palestinian rights.

The two sides also agreed that the higher committee will continue its work of discussing bilateral relations and any new political developments.

Monte Carlo Report

JN141303 Monte Carlo Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1215 GMT 14 Dec 82

[Telephone dispatch by Radio Monte Carlo correspondent in Amman Fu'ad Nu'aym -- live or recorded]

[Excerpts] Thus, the higher committee, which is chaired by Prime Minister Mudar Badran and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, has completely approved all the recommendations referred to it by the joint subcommittees after a series of meetings beginning in November. As we previously reported, the framework of future unity [al-ittihad al-mustaqbali] to which both sides have agreed would leave all options open with regard to the legal form to be assumed by the expected Jordanian-Palestinian union.

Jordanian and Palestinian circles believe that this agreement is bound to generate new momentum for peace in the area and for the joint political strategy being adopted by the higher committee. The new strategy is based on Arab principles as approved by the recent Fes summit and aims at bringing the viewpoints of international initiatives, including Reagan's proposal and the Arab peace plan, closer together.

'Arafat Comments Departs

JN141620 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 14 Dec 82

[Excerpt] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat left Amman this afternoon following a 3-day visit to Jordan during which he met with Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, and chaired the Palestinian side to the meetings of the higher Jordanian-Palestinian committee which ended in Amman today. Speaking to a PETRA-JNA correspondent, 'Arafat said that the committee's discussion were constructive and fruitful, governed by an atmosphere of fraternity and positiveness.

OFFICIALS EXPRESS 'SATISFACTION' WITH U.S. EFFORTS

NC141815 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 14 Dec 82

[Text] Concerning the new U.S. proposals being carried by U.S. envoy Draper, informed sources have expressed satisfaction with the continuing U.S. efforts. These sources affirmed that the joint Lebanese-U.S. efforts to speed up the negotiations through the Lebanese-Israeli liaison committee, have made a stride forward. It may become possible to achieve practical results soon if the Israelis are well-intentioned.

The informed sources expect Lebanese officials to meet with Ambassador Draper tomorrow to learn from him about the outcome of the U.S. effort and stand to accelerate a withdrawal from Lebanon.

VOL REPORTS ON U.S. PLAN FOR WITHDRAWALS

NC141839 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 14 Dec 82

[Excerpt] U.S. envoy Morris Draper is carrying positive ideas with him from Washington on the subject of the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon. Upon landing at Beirut airport this evening, he explained that his talks with the U.S. Administration centered on this issue. Draper will later inform President of the Republic Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil of the new ideas that the two envoys, Habib and Draper, have brought with them from the U.S. capital.

The arrival of the U.S. envoy in Beirut was preceded by information, which was made available to diplomatic sources, according to which the new U.S. proposals center in essence on conducting Lebanese-Israeli negotiations at the political level. The first such meeting will be held in Lebanon and later they will meet in Rome or in Paris, considering the fact that the two states are participating in the multinational force.

In the proposals Habib and Draper are reportedly carrying with them, there is a plan for partial and simultaneous withdrawals that are to be implemented simultaneously with the beginning of the negotiations.

Israel is to withdraw up to Ad-Damur and Syria up to Al-Biq'a'. This would make possible the opening of the Beirut-Damascus highway and the positioning of the Lebanese Army together with the multinational force on it and, finally, finding a solution to the mountain issue together with the deployment in greater Beirut.

The return of Ambassador Philip Habib has been postponed for some time, but he is expected to arrive in Israel this week. Ambassador Draper arrived at 1630. Lebanese Minister of Justice and Information Roger Shaykhani arrived on the same plane from Paris.

AL-JUMAYYIL, AL-WAZZAN DISCUSS U.S. IDEAS

NC151022 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 15 Dec 82

[Text] Ambassador Morris Draper leaves for Israel later today to discuss with officials there the U.S. ideas which he carried with him from Washington, and which are related to the Israeli and foreign forces' withdrawal from Lebanon.

President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil and Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan this morning met with Ambassador Draper in the presence of his aide Christopher Ross and Ambassador Robert Dillon.

At this meeting, Draper outlined the new U.S. proposals aimed at reactivating the contacts to achieve an Israeli withdrawal soon from certain areas as part of a comprehensive plan.

After the meeting, Draper said he will leave for Israel today.

President al-Jumayyil and Prime Minister al-Wazzan later held a separate meeting at which they discussed the latest developments and possibilities in light of the new U.S. ideas.

SALIM WANTS FOREIGN FORCES WITHDRAWN IN 4 WEEKS

NC141914 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 14 Dec 82

[Dispatch from Washington by radio correspondent George Shammass on 14 December -- recorded]

[Excerpt] In a speech he delivered during a luncheon given by a famous consultative institute, Foreign Minister Elie Salim affirmed that Lebanon attaches great importance to the withdrawal of all foreign forces from its territory within a maximum period of 4 weeks. Drawing attention to the gravity of the situation in Lebanon, he said that any delay in the withdrawal of the foreign forces from Lebanon will create a grave and serious situation that might lead to the outbreak of a new war more ferocious and comprehensive than the 1975 [as heard] war. He emphasized that the postponement of the withdrawal of the foreign forces from Lebanon and Lebanon's destruction are synonymous.

Foreign Minister Salim said his visit to Washington aims at convincing U.S. officials to increase the size of the U.S. forces participating in the multinational peacekeeping force in Beirut. He added that French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson informed him during their meeting in Paris on Saturday that France would agree to increase its forces in the multinational force if Italy and the United States also agreed to do so. He said it is expected that the units operating within the multinational force will be increased to number at least 15,000 soldiers to help accelerate the withdrawal of the foreign forces from Lebanon.

The foreign minister also said that Lebanon plans to strengthen its regular army, double the size of the internal security forces, and set up a special border guard unit.

'GOVERNMENT SOURCE' SATISFIED WITH SALIM'S TOUR

NC141920 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 14 Dec 82

[Text] A highly-placed government source in Beirut has expressed satisfaction with the outcome of Foreign Minister Elie Salim's talks in London, Paris, and Washington and with the response of officials in these capitals to Lebanese demands. The source said that what concerns Lebanon is the response on the ground that will lead to an Israeli withdrawal, which is a top priority for the government now.

The government source also expressed satisfaction with the security arrangements reached in the Ash-Shuf region, drawing attention to the need to apply these arrangements in the 'Alayh region as well. The source said these arrangements have created a comfortable atmosphere which is supposed to be complemented by other arrangements on the political level through the achievement of a partial Israeli withdrawal from the Ash-Shuf and 'Alayh regions that will be part of a complete withdrawal plan from Lebanon.

TRIPOLI CLASHES SPREAD; CASUALTIES REPORTED

NC150744 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 15 Dec 82

[Text] Last night, the security situation in Tripoli exploded to extend to areas that had not witnessed clashes before. Our correspondent says Ba'l Muhsein and Bab at-Tabbanah were inundated with heavy artillery, rocket, and machinegun fire. The clashes soon extended to At-Tall and Al-Qubbah localities. Shelling reached Al-Baddawi camp, al-Malluli Boulevard, and Nahr Abu 'Ali highway. Due to these violent clashes, it has been difficult to count the casualties.

Meanwhile, fires have destroyed many places in the As-Suwayqah as-Sulf, al-Qadimah, and Barraniyah quarters. It has been reported that more than 20 persons have been killed and 50 others wounded.

SYRIAN ENVOY EXPECTED TO ARRIVE IN TRIPOLI

NC141730 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 14 Dec 82

[Text] The coordination committee in the north today held a meeting under the chairmanship of former Prime Minister Rashid Karami to continue to deal with the situation [in Tripoli]. The meeting was attended by the members of the delegation that visited Damascus yesterday. The delegation members briefed the committee on the outcome of their talks with Syrian officials. It was learned from delegation sources that a Syrian envoy will arrive in Tripoli today or tomorrow to study the situation on the spot and meet with the various local leaders.

JUNBLATT FAVORS MULTINATIONAL FORCE STRENGTHENING

LD142048 Paris Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 14 Dec 82

[Text] Walid Junblatt, head of the Lebanese left, who is in Paris said he is in favor of strengthening the multinational force in Lebanon. Walid Junblatt would like the new contingents to be deployed in areas under Phalangist and Israeli control.

JUNBLATT BLAMES ATTACK ON PHALANGISTS, ISRAELIS

NC141718 Paris AFP in English 1711 GMT 14 Dec 82

[Text] Paris, Dec 14 (AFP) -- Walid Junblatt, the Lebanese Druze Socialist leader who escaped assassination earlier this month, today blamed the incident on the Christian Phalangists or Israel, although he admitted he had no proof.

Mr Junblatt, who was slightly wounded when a car-bomb exploded in Beirut on December 1, made the accusation in an interview on French television.

In a speech to diplomatic correspondents here, meanwhile, he called for a strengthening of the France-Italy-U.S. multinational force in Beirut and its deployment in zones controlled by the Phalangists and the Israelis.

He said he was not hostile in principle to peace with Israel, but was opposed to giving Israel concessions, for this would mean rewarding aggression.

He also expressed opposition to Lebanon serving as "a springboard for Israeli access to the Arab world."

Mr Junblatt arrived here yesterday.

MONTE CARLO INTERVIEWS DRUZE LEADER JUNBLATT

JN141946 Monte Carlo Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1725 GMT 14 Dec 82

[Interview with Socialist leader Walid Junblatt by Radio Monte Carlo correspondent Kamal Tarabayh in Paris on 14 December -- recorded]

[Text] [Question] The situation in the [Lebanese] mountain is extremely serious. Clashes have extended to new areas and reached upper Al-Matn in addition to Ash-Shuf, Al-Biq'a, 'Alayh, and the south, let alone Tripoli. Is there not a way to contain the trouble and prevent its expansion?

[Answer] I said previously that the situation in the mountain was calm before the Lebanese Forces entered it. These forces entered, and the trouble began. The presence of these forces in the mountain might drag us into a greater, harsher, and more comprehensive war. These forces entered under the pretext of protecting the Christians. This practically led to the emigration of the Christians because they refuse the trusteeship of everyone including the Lebanese Forces [as heard]. As for the Druze and the Progressive Socialist Party, they refuse to accept the Phalangist hegemony over the mountain. The mountain is for everyone, but this should be agreed to through democratic means. The mountain will never bow or be forced to its knees by Phalangist weapons.

[Question] President Amin al-Jumayyil chaired several meetings, which included yourself and other parties concerned, in order to deal with the situation in the mountain. These meetings used to end after agreement on certain measures. In fact, it transpired that every meeting was followed by a further deterioration in the situation. In your opinion, who is opposed to the return of stability and coexistence in the mountain?

[Answer] President Amin al-Jumayyil understands the situation in the mountain. He is of the opinion that a solution must be reached concerning the mountain's policy. Former President Camille Sham'un is also a leader who understands the situation in the mountain, because he is the son of this mountain. He is well aware of the seriousness of the clashes and the situation in the mountain. As for these [Lebanese] Forces, they have a different view. They say they are present to protect the Christians even if this requires the force of arms. We are, therefore, not (?in agreement) with the policy of the Lebanese Forces. As for Pierre al-Jumayyil, he says the Christians in the mountain must be given guarantees. I say the best guarantee for the Christians of the mountain is the present Christian-Druze coexistence, national unity apart from the Phalangist policy of hegemony.

[Question] Philip Habib and Morris Draper will return to Beirut today. In his Lebanese Independence Day speech, Amin al-Jumayyil said the United States was determined to stand at Lebanon's side, or words to that effect. What is your opinion on the U.S. position on the Lebanese and Middle East issues?

[Answer] I have no objection to U.S. support for Lebanon if this results in the withdrawal of all [foreign] forces, particularly the Israeli forces, and the reemergence of an independent and free Lebanon. If this support is conditional on reaching a certain settlement with Israel, such as a political, economic or security settlement, this will not be a U.S. guarantee [as heard].

[Question] There are certain Lebanese parties that openly call for coexistence with Israel. Most world states demand mutual and simultaneous recognition between Israel and the PLO. Do you think that the age of Arab-Israel conflict and the age of the Arab war against Israel have gone, never to return?

[Answer] The age of fighting with Israel has not ended. On the contrary, fighting is increasing today because the basic issue, namely, the recognition of Palestinian rights has not been settled. When the Israeli rulers realize that the Palestinian rights should be recognized and that the neighboring states must be dealt with peacefully, then a just peace with Israel may be reached. Israel has committed a flagrant aggression against Lebanon; it has destroyed Lebanon and killed more than 20,000 Lebanese and Palestinians. From the political, economic, and humanitarian viewpoints, I do not think that we are now in a position to reach a settlement with Israel.

[Question] You have repeatedly said that there are Lebanese forces that cooperate and coordinate with Israel both in the mountain and other areas. Do you not think that there are certain Druze forces that also cooperate with Israel with the aim of perhaps establishing a Druze state?

[Answer] Some groups that openly cooperate or which have cooperated with Israel are attempting to justify their cooperation by raising the slogan of a Druze state. We must see the issues clearly. The Phalangist Party, or the majority of this party, and the Lebanese Forces have only cooperated with Israel.

They are now trying to make the world forget this cooperation. They try to make the world forget what happened in the Sabra and Shatila camps. They say that some Druze are cooperating with Israel. The Druze are Lebanese, Arab, and play a basic role in Lebanon. They will preserve their Lebanese and Arab identity and their Islamic heritage. They will not be dragged into idiotic plans such as a Druze state.

[Question] It is said that Ari'el Sharon has warned you personally not to go to the mountain or to your house in Al-Mukhtarah. Did this actually happen?

[Answer] I have not received specific threats from Sharon or others. I believe that my presence today in Al-Mukhtarah might not be desirable because I want to enjoy full political freedom in my house and I do not want my presence to be tied to certain conditions, be they Israeli or other conditions.

[Question] How do you view a solution in Lebanon? The situation is quickly and ominously deteriorating. The Lebanese have lost their hope and their patience. As a Lebanese leader, how do you view the means of delivering Lebanon from its troubles?

[Answer] The solution in Lebanon must depend on a political settlement taking into consideration the new Lebanese circumstances, the social circumstances in Lebanon. This settlement should take into consideration the Israeli occupation. It should categorically reject this occupation. There should be a comprehensive national reconciliation in order to reach a calmer situation, a situation which gives future generations some guarantees as to their social and political life and their security.

[Question] Are you awaiting definite French moves? What is the aim of your visit to Paris?

[Answer] I have come to France to meet with External Relations Minister Cheysson. We will see if France can play a more effective role in Lebanon and the Middle East. I believe that it can because of its historical relations with Lebanon and in view of its understanding of Lebanon's internal problems.

[Question] I should have started this interview by saying: Thank God you are safe now. Everyone thought that the criminal attempt to assassinate you was aimed against Lebanon's security as a whole. In your view, what group or groups were behind this attempt?

[Answer] I do not want to go into a discussion of who was behind the assassination attempt aimed against me. I expect more such attempts at any moment. What is important is that the Druze line, the line of the Progressive Socialist Party, and the nationalist line will never change, even if Walid Junblatt is removed from the scene permanently.

[Question] Is there any message you would like to address to your countrymen in the mountain, in 'Alayh, Ash-Shuf, and in other Lebanese areas?

[Answer] I wish stability and peace for the mountain and for Lebanon. However, there are conditions for stability and peace that preserve a minimum amount of national dignity for everyone. We will never accept the slogan: "Victor and vanquished." What was defeated in this war was Lebanon, as an entity and as a people. Let us agree on this point. If we agree on this, we will be able to ward off future disasters in Lebanon.

[Question] Do you continue to wager on the trust you have placed in President Amin al-Jumayyil?

[Answer] Yes. I continue to wager on President Amin al-Jumayyil. I think he will be able [to solve the Lebanese problems]; he understands the current Lebanese issues. However, he should be given a chance and greater support on the Lebanese, Arab, and international levels.

FRENCH BRANCH OF AL-MURABITUN ISSUES STATEMENT

NC101530 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 1330 GMT 10 Dec 82

[Text] The French branch of the Executive Council of the Independent Nasirite Movement-Al-Murabitun has held an extraordinary meeting chaired by Brother Ibrahim Qulaylat, chairman of the Command Council. It was attended by the official in charge of the leadership abroad and the members of the council.

Following the meeting, a statement was issued that calls for confronting all the formulas aimed at partitioning Lebanon at the geographic, demographic, and sectarian levels as well as all the formulas that implement schemes for the hegemony of one group, whether in the domain of their political, party, or sectarian affiliations.

The statement touches on the Arab situation and what it may achieve for the Palestinian issue following the Zionist invasion of Lebanon. It also notes the international role and plans, and states that the separation between the European plans and the role of the United States, which is the strategic ally of the Zionist enemy and his goals, is a natural phenomenon.

AL-'AMAL VIEWS SHARON STATEMENT ON WITHDRAWAL

NC111442 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 11 Dec 82

[Text] Israeli Defense Minister Sharon's statement in which he said the price Israel demands for its withdrawal will have to be met or else President al-Jumayyil will remain president of his palace only, has not passed without eliciting Lebanese reactions.

In addition to the comment made by [former] President Sham'un and the deputies' reactions, which have been published in the papers, AL-'AMAL today deals with the statement under the headline "Under the Hammer and the Anvil." It reflects the feeling of coercion which the statement has aroused in the hearts of the Lebanese.

The paper says: We almost prefer that our president remain the president of his palace only if his presidency of all Lebanon will not express our national vigor. It then calls on the Lebanese to understand the various aspects of the situation in an objective manner and to think about how to regain their lands. This, it says, is what is more important.

In its article, AL-'AMAL adds: The failure to sign the treaty, which Sharon demands as a price, means that the Israeli army will remain where it is in our country and that all the other armies -- Palestinian, Syrian, and Iranian -- will also remain where they are. The southern part of the country is in the hands of Israel, and the other parts, in the north and Al-Biqa', are in the hands of the brothers. The Lebanese president and his government are only in control of the B'abda perimeter.

AL-'AMAL adds: The Arabs are now putting Lebanon in the position of either remaining occupied by Israel or having its borders with them closed. If the Arab brothers can expel the Israeli army one way or another, then let them come and do so. If they cannot do so, then let them permit us to work to regain our land in a way which will end the humiliation we feel when we hear Sharon's advice and warnings.

BEIRUT RADIO ON SHARON WITHDRAWAL STATEMENT

NC111915 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 11 Dec 82

[Muhammad an-Naqqash "political" commentary: "Israeli Government Is Escaping Forward"]

[Text] The Israeli defense minister has stated with some lack of courtesy and decorum that President Amin al-Jumayyil may have to be satisfied with a republic that does not extend beyond his palace if Lebanon refuses to conclude an agreement with Israel. Another official in the Tel Aviv government has also said a budget is being prepared for Israeli army expenditures for a whole year in case the army remains in Lebanon.

We will not bestow upon the two above-mentioned statements the epithet of blackmail, despite the fact they are reeking with it. We would rather describe them, quoting Western expressions, as escaping forward. This means that the aggressor who is at fault does not usually correct his mistake. Rather, he goes on perpetrating it and maybe aggravating it in hopes of exhausting the foe through the exaggeration.

Lebanese politicians cannot be taken in by this method, because they are believers in realism and vision. They know that the Government of Israel is actually hoping to leave Lebanon as soon as possible. However, it wants to obtain something, something political, which is more important than the security objective which it achieved through the invasion, to dazzle the eyes of the Israeli people who, by and large, were not satisfied with the results of this invasion, considering its price and the negative effects it had on the reputation of the Jewish state abroad, especially with friends.

Taking this fact into consideration, we would like to be economical in responding to the threats, and to be satisfied by saying with all simplicity that Lebanon -- people and government -- is committed to its dignity and eager to maintain its freedom and independence, to uphold the interests of its sister Arab states, to hold dialogues with anyone, and to conclude agreements in which there are real and mutual interests, on condition that they are within the above-mentioned framework. This has been affirmed by the president of the republic and the prime minister, as well as by our foreign minister yesterday in London.

Dignity, freedom, and independence mean in the eyes of the Lebanese, as Minister Salim said, the liberation of Lebanon from all foreign occupation, particularly because Lebanon is determined to be strong enough to deter any invasion of this territory and to prevent anyone from using it as a passageway for reaching an enemy. Lebanon is perserving, and its patience is not spent quickly. It will also not act like one that is easy to deal with or one that is surrendering in the hope of expediting the withdrawal of the invasion forces if this withdrawal contains conditions that jeopardize the components of its sovereignty. However, the world's patience may end and, for instance, the U.S. patience may end, toward Israel's procrastinations and intransigence. Whether Israel knows that or not, the United States enjoys a special friendship with Israel, its patience may be spent when it sees Israel being destroyed through its selfishness and ignoring of U.S. interests. Also, the patience of Europe and the rest of the world may end as well when they see Israel, through intransigence, expose their peace to the most dangerous explosion.

ROMANIAN OFFICIAL CONCLUDES VISIT TO BEIRUT

NC141316 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 14 Dec 82

[Text] Gheorghe Laza, the Romanian deputy minister of industry, [title as heard] has concluded a 7-day visit to Lebanon, during which he held economic talks and meetings with Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan, Dr Muhammad 'Atallah, chairman of the Development and Reconstruction Council, and with several businessmen and industrialists. The talks held by the Romanian official dealt with means and ways through which Romania can contribute to the Lebanese authorities' efforts for reconstruction and the development of the national economy.

AL-AHMAR MEETS WITH PLO'S KHALID AL-FAHUM

JN141132 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 14 Dec 82

[Text] In Damascus this morning, Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, received Khalid al-Fahum, speaker of the Palestine National Council. The discussions during the meeting revolved around the latest developments in the region and the U.S. role to liquidate the Palestinian cause. The two sides stressed the importance of Syrian-Palestinian cohesion to confront the hostile schemes and the ceaseless Zionist aggression against the Arab nation.

Comrades al-Ahmar and Al-Fahum emphasized the need to continue the joint struggle to liberate the occupied Arab territories and establish the invariable rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to repatriation, self-determination, and to build their independent state on national Palestinian soil.

BA'TH OFFICIAL RECEIVES LEBANESE COMMUNIST LEADER

JN121520 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1450 GMT 12 Dec 82

[Text] Damascus, 12 Dec (SANA) -- Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Ba'th Party, received here today George Hawi, secretary general of the Lebanese Communist Party, accompanied by several members of the party's Political Bureau. The meeting was attended by Comrade Muhammad Haydar, member of the Ba'th Party National Command and director of its Foreign Relations Office.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed means of promoting cooperation between the Ba'th Party and the Lebanese Communist Party. They also discussed the dimensions of the Zionist invasion of Lebanon, the practices of the occupation forces aimed at dominating and dividing Lebanon, and the fierce and escalating nationalist resistance against the occupiers.

Comrade al-Ahmar emphasized the need for joining Lebanese, Arab, and international efforts to confront the Zionist occupation and to secure its unconditional withdrawal from Lebanon. The two sides noted the need for confronting the U.S. scheme aimed at liquidating the Palestinian issue and dominating the region. They also stressed the need for confronting the Zionist forces to liberate the occupied Arab land and to establish the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to establish their independent state and to achieve self-determination.

Received by Al-Asad

JN131030 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1015 GMT 13 Dec 82

[Text] At 1200 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received George Hawi, secretary general of the Executive Committee of the Lebanese Communist Party, accompanied by George Habar and Albert Farhat, members of the party's Political Bureau.

AL-ASAD RECEIVES LEBANESE SHI'ITE LEADER

JN121145 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 12 Dec 82

[Text] At 1200 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received an Amal movement delegation led by Nabih Barri, chief of Amal Command Council. They discussed the situation in the Lebanese and Arab arenas.

AL-KASM DISCUSSES SYRIA'S ROLE IN LEBANON

JN112108 Damascus SANA in Arabic 2030 GMT 11 Dec 82

[Excerpt] Damascus, 11 Dec (SANA) -- Prime Minister Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm has affirmed that Syria, under President Hafiz al-Asad, refuses to bargain over what it has been entrusted with, believed in and fought for for over 30 years.

In a meeting today with the teaching staff of Damascus University, Dr al-Kasm said that the policy of the United States, particularly that of the new administration, has been able to carry out vicious attacks against the whole world and that we have received the largest share of them.

He said that there exists an imperialist tide and that the United States has allies. He said: We are not exaggerating when we say that Syria is left all alone. Syria alone must struggle to protect its territory and the Arab homeland. Every Syrian citizen must do his duty, donate money, and make an effort to protect the Arab homeland, to which we believe we belong.

Dr al-Kasm noted that all of us in this homeland should bear the burden of making Syria strong in performing its pan-Arab role. He said that our officers, NCO's and soldiers fought in all the battles during which the enemy used previously unused weapons.

He affirmed that the war was not merely between Syria and Israel, but between Syria and those behind Israel. He said that in the past there were other Arabs who fought alongside us. However, he said that for the first time when we fought alone we had the Palestinian Resistance and the national progressive Lebanese forces at our side. The Syrian Army was the only Arab army in the battle despite the large-scale campaign of silence and distortion. This campaign was part of the great conspiracy we fought against in our economic and military battles. He said: Quite frankly, it was easy to avoid all this. However, as people, party and national front, we decided to remain loyal to our national and pan-Arab role. Our president and country refused to bargain over what they have believed in and have fought for for over 30 years.

TISHRIN SCORES MUBARAK'S PRO-AMERICAN STANCE

JN141052 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 14 Dec 82

[From the press review]

[Text] In a commentary headlined "More American Than Reagan," the newspaper TISHRIN discloses the real U.S. position -- which is hostile to the Arabs and supports Israel -- the disturbing stance of some Arab states, and their departure from the unified stand of the Arab summits and Syria's firm stand on all this.

The paper says: Syria knows how petty those on the pan-Arab scene are and how small their role is, particularly in affecting the interests of the Palestine question. Syria has always been aware that there is no place for pettiness and selling out of popular causes. It also knows, more than ever, that when it stands firmly resisting all the plans for settlement with Israel, it will not be praised by a ruler such as Husni Mubarak, who participated with As-Sadat in the highest treason in modern Arab history and maintained it without embarrassment while simply observing Israel's invasion of Lebanon at a time when the Israeli flag was still flying over Cairo.

Syria also knows that the likes of Husni Mubarak have turned all their efforts toward serving U.S.-Israeli designs. They believe that the Syrian stand will uncover and disclose this treachery, which they would prefer to make negotiable. By breaking his unnatural silence, Mubarak has confirmed that he is deeply linked with As-Sadatism, even though he tried to shake off this poor, worn-out robe as a prelude to returning to the Arab fold. The paper adds: There is nothing new in our saying that Mubarak's despair about Camp David might lead him to show the distress of his predecessor before he was killed, a state that caused the flow of abuse against Syria, the Soviet Union, and all else that is progressive and nationalist in this region.

Mubarak's abuse will get him nowhere in this region, despite the fact that he has turned out to be more American and more Israeli than the Americans and Israelis themselves. Had he remained silent, he would have been more able to maneuver and deceive. The official Arab voices against Syria are numerous, and the United States needs no new propagandasts such as Mubarak to promote the settlement plans.

SHARON COMMENTS ON SETTLEMENTS, U.S. TIES

TA141554 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1510 GMT 14 Dec 82

[Text] While on a tour of Samaria, Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon has declared that Israel will continue the settlement momentum in Judaea and Samaria, even though there is no intention to annex the area. Sharon said the settlements are a factor strengthening Israel's security, and he hopes that in several years, tens or even hundreds of thousands of Jews will be living there. At the end of the tour, our correspondent Shalom Oren spoke with Sharon:

[Begin recording] [Sharon] Israel has made it clear countless times that in matters of its security, no one will interfere. Israel's security, and its right to settle in Judaea, Samaria, the Gaza Strip, the Golan Heights, the Galilee, the Negev, and anywhere -- these are one of Israel's and the Jewish people's most basic rights. This constituted one of the foundations of the current government's election platform. It was elected on that basis and it is carrying it out. And it will continue to carry it out with full impetus.

[Question] New settlements also?

[Answer] You are travelling about the area, you see the development of the old settlements, and you see the new settlements, which are being added to the map daily.

[Question indistinct]

[Answer] The government during its last term -- and it is continuing to do this in its present term -- did in the Galilee what other governments did not do for many years. Dozens of settlements have been set up in Galilee. Of course, they are small settlements. But the entire settlement beginning was small. There is no room for complaint. The Galilee will not be neglected. First of all, as in every place, a peg must be driven into the ground, and afterwards, the settlements will grow.

[Question] Are you ready to talk about the crisis in relations with the United States?

[Answer] I do not see a particular crisis in relations with the United States. There are strong relations of friendship between Israel and the United States, a traditional and longstanding friendship. At present, we have several problems we are dealing with. One problem is that of the arrangements in Lebanon. Another problem is that of the political arrangements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. [end recording]

More on Settlement Activity

TA141831 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 14 Dec 82

[Report on statements by Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon by settlement affairs correspondent Shalom Oren following a tour of the West Bank on 14 December -- live or recorded with Sharon remarks apparently recorded earlier]

[Excerpts] Defense Minister Sharon has praised Gush Emunim, which he says is perhaps the most important pioneering settlement body in Israel. He compared the pioneers' settlement movement to Gush Emunim's settlement work, and said the difference is that then it took dozens of years, while today it only takes a few years. Sharon rejected the external and internal pressure against the continuation of settlement, saying that no one will interfere with Israel's security.

The settlement of Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip is part of Israel's security, Sharon emphasized, and this settlement will prevent every possibility and attempt to set up a second Palestinian state. We made this clear at Camp David, and we have an autonomy plan that guarantees the rights of the local inhabitants. We are ready to resume the negotiations on this plan at any time.

[Sharon -- in English] I think that that will prevent any possibility whatsoever even to try to establish a second Palestinian state -- second to one that exists already in Jordan. And we made it very clear at Camp David that Israel will never agree to a second Palestinian state, not to a state, not to a corridor to a state. We also had a plan -- the autonomy plan. Israel is ready to negotiate this plan immediately, every minute.

[Oren] Sharon answered in English, questions from the numerous foreign reporters who accompanied him on the tour, and said: We have no intention of annexing Judaea and Samaria, but inasmuch as Israel's security is concerned, no one will dictate to us how to secure this area. This is our responsibility, and we do not want anyone to send soldiers here to defend us. These settlements here in Judaea and Samaria are our security, Sharon stressed. I can promise, the defense minister added, that 50 years from now, Israel will still be responsible for the internal and external security of this area. This is our right and this is our responsibility, and we will not give even the United States, which is a friendly country, the responsibility for Israel's security. I hope, Sharon concluded, that in the coming months, the settlement and population activity in Judaea and Samaria will increase.

Opposes U.S. 'Leading Role'

TA150913 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 15 Dec 82 pp 1, 15

[Report by Ilan Kfir]

[Excerpt] "Israel will not permit the United States to play a leading role in the negotiations with Lebanon." This position has been expressed by Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon in consultations by the senior political echelons in Jerusalem in preparation for the talks with special U.S. Ambassador Philip Habib, who is arriving in Israel this evening.

In the consultations, Sharon explained that Israel must insist firmly on the principle that it will not withdraw from Lebanon without a direct security agreement and normalization arrangements with the Government of Lebanon.

In the Jerusalem consultations, Israel's positions in the negotiations were formulated, the guiding principle being: direct negotiations with Lebanon on the issue of the security arrangements, with willingness, in principle, for negotiations using the shuttle method on the issue of the withdrawal of the foreign forces from Lebanon. At the prime minister's meeting tomorrow with Philip Habib, the site of the talks with Lebanon will be decided. The proposal to hold the negotiations in Italy or France will be put forward. Director General of the Foreign Ministry David Kimche is Israel's candidate to head the delegation that will conduct the negotiations with Lebanon.

JERUSALEM ON REAGAN'S 'ACCELERATED SOLUTION'

TA141119 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 14 Dec 82

[Text] President Reagan wants to accelerate the solution to the problems pertaining to Lebanon.

Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports that the President's wish was conveyed by the head of the Israeli desk at the U.S. State Department, Kim Pendleton, who is currently visiting Israel. In a meeting with Deputy Foreign Minister Yehuda Ben-Me'ir, the guest, who has only recently assumed his post, was given a review of Israel's positions regarding the arrangements and the processes for promoting peace. Deputy Foreign Minister Ben-Me'ir described for the guest the obstacles piled up by Egypt on normalization between the two countries and emphasized that if peace with Egypt lacks any meaning, the chances of promoting peace in the region would be adversely affected.

POSSIBILITY OF 'DRASTIC' REAGAN ACTION RAISED

TAL50709 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 15 Dec 82 pp 1, 2

[Report by Asher Wallfish]

[Text] U.S. Middle East Ambassador Philip Habib and Morris Draper will arrive in Israel this afternoon with an unmistakable message from President Ronald Reagan that he wants talks between Israel and Lebanon to begin immediately and without further delay.

Official spokesmen in Jerusalem argue that the State Department is entirely to blame for the deadlock between the two countries and is seeking a scapegoat after having let Reagan down on the Lebanese negotiations.

There have been reports that Reagan became upset when Habib and Draper left Israel emptyhanded on November 25. If they return empty-handed once again, and lay the blame on Israel, Reagan is likely to do something drastic.

Habib will fly in from Washington and Draper from Beirut. They will hold their own consultations this evening. Tomorrow morning they will open their talks with a call at the Foreign Ministry, and will see Prime Minister Menahem Begin and Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon in the afternoon.

Although Reagan has given no inkling of his intentions, it is speculated that he will express his displeasure via a sensitive security issue if an early date for the start of negotiations between Israel and Lebanon is not announced soon.

Some Israeli commentators say that having sustained a series of setbacks over his economic and military programmes at home, Reagan is disinclined to be thwarted over the Lebanese crisis.

Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said (in Buenos Aires) yesterday that Israel believed that all outstanding differences over Lebanon would be settled by Begin and Reagan at their February meeting. However, signals from Washington stress that the President will not wait that long.

Habib is expected to reiterate Reagan's concern that Israel should reach what American officials have previously described as "adequate security arrangements." He is also anxious that the security of Lebanon be assured as well as its sovereignty over all its territory, and seeks an early withdrawal of all foreign forces.

THE JERUSALEM POST understands from a variety of sources that the question of venue is the only major obstacle holding up the start of the talks. As far as Habib is concerned all options are open.

Washington has signalled that it is tired of hearing Israeli spokesmen repeat that the Lebanese campaign did the United States a tremendous service. Their reaction is that Israel invaded Lebanon for its own reasons and its own interests, and that the United States does not need others to define its goals or promote its interests. The message from Washington is: "It was your war -- not ours."

Washington has also signalled that it has heard enough of the charge that U.S. policy links the Lebanese issue to the Reagan plan, as repeated by Defence Minister Ari'el Sharon. It says the fact that the Reagan plan must hang fire until the Lebanese issue is resolved, is the only conceivable pretext for Sharon's misconstruction.

JERUSALEM 'POLITICAL CIRCLES' ON LEBANESE SOLUTION

TA150639 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0605 GMT 15 Dec 82

[Report by political correspondent 'Oz Frankel -- live or recorded]

[Text] In view of the reports from Beirut and Washington about the concentration of U.S. efforts on the plan for the withdrawal of the foreign forces from Lebanon, Jerusalem political circles are seeking to present an opposite order of priorities: First is a military-political agreement, while settlement for the withdrawal of the foreign forces is only of secondary importance. The picture of the situation painted by these circles is that Syria does not show a willingness to leave Lebanon quickly, and it does not seem that the withdrawal of the foreign forces is at the top of the Al-Jumayyil government's order of priorities. In addition, the negotiations over the withdrawal of the forces is by its very nature complicated and involves combined contact with many elements. In contrast, the sources assess that the prospects appear very good for the successful conducting of talks between Israel and Lebanon over the signing of a military-political agreement. Such an agreement will make it considerably easier to find a formula for the removal of the foreign forces; one that would satisfy all the parties.

The sources said that Israel expects the United States to provide political backing for the negotiations between Israel and Lebanon. In other words, it expects that the United States will not cite reasons of Arab opinion with the aim of diverting Beirut and Jerusalem from attempting to achieve a defense-political agreement. The details of the agreement themselves will be worked out in direct negotiations between the two countries, the Jerusalem sources stressed. We do not want the United States to impose the format of an agreement on Israel or Lebanon, they said. Even without an official peace treaty, a rare opportunity has now been created for getting Lebanon to join the path of peace. In the long run, this is not only in Israel's interest, but also in the interest of whoever presents the Reagan plan as the way to resolve the Middle East conflict, the sources said.

ISRAELI AUTHORITIES RELEASE DETAINED SYRIANS

JN141916 Monte Carlo Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Dec 82

[Text] Newspaper correspondents in southern Lebanon said in Beirut today that last Sunday, Israeli occupation authorities released six Syrians who had been detained in Al-Ansar camp in south Lebanon and handed them over to the International Red Cross, which handed them over to Syrian authorities.

IDF PREVENTS PHALANGIST REINFORCEMENTS IN ASH-SHUF

TA141955 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 14 Dec 82

[Text] The IDF prevented the Phalangists from reinforcing their troops in the Ash-Shuf mountains today by stopping a Christian unit that was trying to reach the Phalangist camp in the town of Bayt Ad-Din. The Phalangist force was stopped at the IDF roadblock in (Hima) village, and it returned the way it came. This morning, two Christian inhabitants who were travelling in a car in this village were kidnapped, despite the agreement to end hostilities that was reached between the Druze and the Christians.

The curfew in the towns of 'Alayh and Bhamdun was lifted this morning, and joint patrols patrolled the streets. Nevertheless, both Druze and Christians doubt that the new cease-fire will hold.

THREE IDF SOLDIERS WOUNDED IN LEBANON 14 DEC

TA150706 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0658 GMT 15 Dec 82

[IDF spokesman announcement]

[Text] An IDF truck transporting ammunition caught fire last night near the Ash-Shuf mountain village of Dayr al-Qamar. Three IDF soldiers were wounded and were evacuated to the hospital. The IDF is investigating the cause of the fire.

BOTH ASH-SHUF SIDES REPORTEDLY SHOOTING AT IDF

TA150912 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 15 Dec 82 pp 1, 7

[Report by Gad Becker]

[Excerpt] Yesterday, a senior security source told members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that both sides in the Ash-Shuf hills were now shooting at IDF soldiers. According to him, both the Druze and the Christians have recently begun shooting at our troops and, because of this, the IDF had been forced to use tanks against both sides in the hamlet of 'Alayh for several days.

The senior security source estimated that both sides have an interest in getting the IDF out of the area so it cannot form a buffer between them, because each side believes it can win the battle in the Ash-Shuf hills. Therefore, the firing at the IDF could continue and even worsen in the near future.

In his assessment, if Israel withdraws from the Ash-Shuf hills, a bloodbath is to be expected there. The security source warned that a unilateral Israeli withdrawal from the area, without recompense, would create an erroneous impression among the Syrians and the PLO and damage the negotiations over a withdrawal from all of Lebanon.

Today, the IDF-Druze-Phalange committee, established in the Ash-Shuf hills on 13 December, is to meet to discuss both sides' complaints of violations of the cease-fire agreement that have occurred since its creation.

Each of the rivals is demanding that the IDF behave severely toward violations by the other side. The leaders of the Druze have complained that a few hours after the signing of the agreement, Phalange soldiers tried to attack Druze inhabitants who were travelling in the region of the Christian hamlets of (Bi'r al-Qamr) and Bayt ad-Din.. The Phalange leaders complained that yesterday the Druze kidnapped three Christians who had been driving in their vehicle near Al-Khayyam.

HA'ARETZ ON DELAY IN LEBANESE INFORMATION EXCHANGE

TA141105 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 14 Dec 82 p 1

['Exclusive' report from Washington by Gid'on Samet]

[Text] Washington -- There is no meaning to be attached to the fact that Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger has yet to sign the agreement on exchanging information on the Lebanon campaign, which was initialled in Israel, it was said yesterday by senior Pentagon sources.

An investigation by the Israeli Embassy has revealed that the reasons for the delay are basically technical. Weinberger returned to the United States last week and was immediately caught up in the stormy congressional debate over the MX missiles and the budget.

It seems that an atmosphere of resentment prevailed in the Pentagon following what was defined as a "lot of noise" which was made in Israel about the meaning of the agreement right after it was signed by the Defense Ministry delegation. Pentagon sources do not deny there might be aspects that call for a second look and they feel that the signature of the secretary cannot be a "rubber stamp." They denied yesterday that there is any significance to the fact that the document was not yet ratified.

One of the versions spread lately attributed the delay in signing to substantive reasons. Israeli circles said there are reservations in the Pentagon leadership because:

-- The document signed in Israel includes definitions of the war's aims which are inconvenient to the Americans.

-- Signing such a strategic agreement after the suspending of the memorandum of understanding with Israel is awkward.

-- Of the Israeli demand that the information not be passed on to others, like NATO for instance.

-- Of reasons connected to the talks on evacuating the foreign forces. Such an agreement now will cause resentment in Syria and might damage Habib's efforts.

After the additional investigation held yesterday, the Israeli elements monitoring the subject tended to downplay those reasons and put more stress on the technical reasons that held up the signing of the documents until now.

HA'ARETZ ON U.S. ENCOURAGING EGYPT-PLO CONTACTS

TA120947 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 12 Dec 82 p 1

[Report by political correspondent Yehuda Litani]

[Text] Political sources in Jerusalem said yesterday that the United States has encouraged the recent intensive contacts between Egypt and the PLO.

Those same sources said yesterday that lately Egypt has been intensely active on the subject of the PLO and is holding intensive contacts at all levels with PLO representatives in Cairo and elsewhere. Those sources added that the Egyptians are taking advantage of the rift between Syria and the PLO to strengthen their ties with the PLO. They are also publicly expressing this through interviews with PLO leaders that are published in the Egyptian press.

Israeli sources, so it was reported, view with concern the strengthening of the ties between Egypt and the PLO and the direct encouragement of this by U.S. officials, headed by U.S. Ambassador to Cairo Alfred Atherton. It was reported that the Egyptians decided to take action on this subject out of a feeling that their passivity in the last few months caused a feeling of helplessness among the political elite who sharply criticized this passivity. Those circles said, accusingly, that the administration in Cairo is being pushed into the background of activity in the Middle East and that its hands are tied because of the peace treaty with Israel.

The political sources said yesterday that the latest Egyptian activity in Lebanon and Jordan should be viewed against this background as well as its frequent contacts with the PLO. The Americans, said those sources, advised the Egyptians to show more activity because they fear that the feeling of helplessness among the Egyptian political elite might cause internal problems endangering the present regime there.

SINAI MFO FORCE REJECTS EGYPTIAN REQUEST

TA150847 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 15 Dec 82 p 1

[Text] The headquarters of the Sinai Multinational Force and Observers [MFO] has refused to grant the Egyptian request to send units of the force to the Tabah area south of Elat and to also take over a hill commanding a view of the border, which is also a disputed area between Israel and Egypt.

The Egyptian request to the MFO came within the framework of the territorial dispute over these two places. The Egyptians claim that until the dispute is settled, the MFO must also be positioned in the disputed areas and especially in Tabah, and on the hill commanding the northern border.

The MFO command headquarters explained that until the dispute is settled, and the border lines are clearly determined with the agreement of both sides, its forces cannot take over these places.

MA'ARIV ON PALESTINIAN ROLE IN PEACE TALKS

TA141252 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 14 Dec 82 p 5

[Commentary by Shmu'el Segev: "The Searches in Amman"]

[Text] The continuing tension in U.S.-Israeli relations and the obsession with the problems of Lebanon distract the minds of the public in Israel from interesting developments in the subject of autonomy and the question of incorporating the Palestinians in the peace process in the Middle East.

The public quarrel between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Yasir 'Arafat, and the present visit of the terrorists' leader in Amman, prove that the moderate part of the PLO continues to strive toward the incorporation of the Palestinians in the autonomy negotiations.

Contrary to the radical and pro-Syrian terrorist organizations, who explain the decisions of the PLO Central Committee in Damascus as opposing the Reagan plan, 'Arafat claims that the Damascus resolutions authorized him to look for political solutions, which will be sort of a 'mixture' between the Reagan plan and the Fes resolutions. To this end, 'Arafat has established the joint PLO-Jordanian committee and is taking an active personal role in its discussions. 'Arafat's visit to Amman this week was intended to come up with ideas that will be brought up by King Husayn in his meeting with President Reagan in Washington next week.

Israeli and foreign forces that follow 'Arafat's contacts in Amman came to the conclusion that the establishment of the joint committee came about only after King Husayn recognized anew the right of the PLO to represent the Palestinian people. In accordance with this, Husayn does not try any longer to receive a "mandate" from the PLO to conduct the negotiations with Israel in the name of the Palestinians, but is trying to get them a U.S. recognition in their right to participate in determining their future.

In order to overcome the Israeli opposition to incorporating the PLO in the autonomy talks, Husayn and 'Arafat are now looking for a formula which, if not accepted by Israel, will at least be accepted by the United States. Among other things, they discussed the idea of Husayn joining the autonomy talks at the head of a delegation which is to be composed of equal numbers of Jordanian and Palestinian representatives, who will not be chosen by Husayn but will be appointed by 'Arafat. The PLO chairman does not demand that the Palestinian representatives be from the "outside" -- they can be mayors of towns in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza region -- but he does demand that it be publicly declared that those mayors are authorized by the PLO to take part in the autonomy talks.

It cannot be assumed that Israel will be able to accept such a formula. Israel has publicly announced a few times in the past that it will not check the Palestinian representatives in the Jordanian delegation too carefully, and will not check whether they are accepted by the PLO or not. But Israel will oppose it sharply if those Palestinian representatives declare they are the PLO representatives to the talks. It is safe to assume then, that Israel will oppose such a formula in the future as well.

And so, out of the certain assumption that Israel will reject an official participation of the PLO in the autonomy negotiations, the PLO and the Jordanians are now looking at an alternative proposal. Among other things, the joint Palestinian-Jordanian committee discussed last week, the idea that a delegation of the "Arab League" -- such as the one appointed by the summit in Fes and which includes representatives from Jordan, Syria, and the PLO -- taking part in the autonomy talks. Jordan thinks that if agreement can be reached on this issue, Israel will achieve by it sort of an "automatic recognition" of its existence by all the Arab countries, and not only by those participating in the peace talks.

But the most difficult problem is not necessarily the question of the Palestinian representation in the autonomy talks, but the PLO demand to recognize the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination. The Reagan plan, as is well known, rejects a sovereign Palestinian entity and envisages a final solution of the West Bank problem only after 5 years of autonomy, with linkage to Jordanian sovereignty. Therefore, 'Arafat now demands that Husayn suggest to President Reagan to hold a "referendum" in Judaea and Samaria as to the solution preferred by the Palestinian people; this referendum will come instead of the demand for "self-determination."

In any case, the resumed dialogue between the PLO and Jordan is beginning to become institutionalized. On the eve of 'Arafat's arrival in Amman this week, Palestinian sources announced that two of his most senior aides -- Khalil al-Wazir (Abu Jihad) and Hani al-Hasan -- would henceforth reside permanently in Amman and would hold a regular dialogue on the Palestinian issue with King Husayn.

These two men believe so strongly in the possibility of finding an agreed formula for negotiations that they already foresee the establishment of a multinational force resembling the force currently operating in Lebanon, which would take over the territories vacated by the IDF troops where the autonomy authorities will function during the transition period. The establishment of a multinational force is designed to guarantee Israel's security and, moreover, to prevent Israel from meddling with the local inhabitants' vote on the establishment of the autonomy as well as on the final solution that would come at the end of the transition period.

The lengthy discussions between 'Arafat and authorities in Amman obviously lead to the conclusion that one should not yet expect a "breakthrough" in the meeting between King Husayn and President Reagan next week. However, following the Washington visits by King Husayn and President Mubarak on 27 January, the president will presumably be able to inform Prime Minister Menahem Begin, upon his arrival in Washington in mid-February, whether a resumption of the autonomy talks based on the U.S. President's ideas is possible.

Until Prime Minister Begin's trip to Washington, the Israeli Government is supposed to formulate its own ideas and prepare its replies to the various notions currently being discussed in Amman and Washington.

STUDY SAYS PLO'S STRATEGIC GOALS UNCHANGED

TA141752 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 14 Dec 82

[Text] A defense study submitted to Knesset members today says that the PLO has recently been emphasizing the political side of its activity, but that this entails no change in its strategic goals and its opposition to recognizing Israel. According to this assessment, the tactical change derives from the fact that the political path is the only one the PLO can tread today. Yasir 'Arafat is restricted both by Syria and by more extreme PLO elements, and he is unable to change its policy.

FORMER WEST BANK MAYORS ON TALKS WITH SHULTZ

Al-Qawasimi Interview

PM091415 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 7 Dec 82 p 4

[Former Hebron Mayor Fahd al-Qawasimi interviewed by Hadiyah ash-Sharbini in Washington -- date not given]

[Excerpts] At the beginning of the interview I asked him to give his own assessment of U.S. President Ronald Reagan's initiative, which is considered the first clear and positive U.S. move toward a settlement of the Palestinian question.

Fahd al-Qawasimi said: We actually clearly stated our opinion on the day President Reagan announced his initiative. The gist of it was that we considered it a positive initiative, but this did not mean accepting the letter and spirit of the initiative. I believe that there are two main points for which we Palestinians feel a need and which President Reagan's initiative overlooked. President Reagan completely overlooked the PLO and the question of an independent Palestinian state. Still, we consider the initiative a positive development because it spoke of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip as occupied territories and regarded the building of settlements as illegitimate actions which must be stopped. It also said that the Palestinians must have some legitimate rights, although it ignored many of these rights.

We also believe that the U.S. initiative has another shortcoming.

It did not mention the refugees. The refugee problem is one which must be solved. We request that they be repatriated and that those who do not wish to return be compensated.

These are the points we object to, but as Palestinians and as PLO we have already made our position clear. We did not reject it, and we consider it a positive initiative.

[Question] Some press reports published by the POST claimed that during your meeting with George Shultz you came up with the idea of finding a Palestinian alternative for participation in the negotiations if PLO participation became difficult at the present stage, with the proviso that the PLO should approve of such an alternative Palestinian representation.

[Answer] First of all, we did not say that. What we did say during our meeting with George Shultz was that the PLO must participate and must be represented in any talks because, rather than just being an organization represented in the talks, the PLO is the entire Palestinian people. It was on this basis that we said that if certain PLO members were unacceptable the PLO could appoint or authorize anyone it wished from the 4 million Palestinians to participate in the talks on behalf of the Palestinians, but they must be appointed by the PLO. In other words such individuals must be acceptable to the Palestinian people without being PLO officials. We believe that the PLO embodies all Palestinians. The purpose of this idea is to facilitate matters, but approval must come from the PLO and it must be officially announced by the PLO.

[Question] You held consultations in Tunis with Yasir 'Arafat before coming to Washington. How does he feel about current developments, and will you report to him on the results of your talks with Shultz?

[Answer] Naturally. We do not move in isolation from our leadership. We consider the PLO to be the Palestinian people's leadership headed by Brother Yasir 'Arafat. We have not departed from this framework.

[Question] In your talks with Shultz, did you discern any flexibility on his part regarding the proposals you submitted to him?

[Answer] Actually, the mere fact that George Shultz received us as Palestinians coming from Tunis after meeting with brother leader Abu 'Ammar ['Arafat] is in itself a step forward, albeit insufficient. It is perhaps an indication that the Americans are beginning to seriously believe that there can be no solution without the Palestinians in their independent capacity. This is what we are concentrating on.

[Question] Do you have any objection to participating in future negotiations as part of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation?

[Answer] We are not opposed to the idea of a Jordanian-Palestinian joint delegation, but we want the Palestinian representatives to be authorized by the PLO. It is not only we who are against Jordan speaking for us. Jordan itself rejects this notion because the matter above all concerns the Palestinian people. Jordan insists that the Palestinians must be present and fully represented in any future dialogue.

[Question] One of Israel's main arguments is that an independent Palestinian state would be a base for communist influence in the region, particularly since the PLO has relations with the Soviet Union. What is your comment on this?

[Answer] First of all, Jordan and Egypt have relations with the Soviet Union and so will our state; but there is a big difference between relations and subservience. When we set up our own state, we will establish relations with all states including the United States and the Soviet Union; but what we want is an independent, not a satellite state. Our state will never be subservient to any side. We would never agree to such a thing. We suffered from subservience for 70 years, so how could we agree to be subservient to any power in the future?

Second, as Palestinians, some of us are communists and have a right to be, because we are democratic people. Israel itself has a communist party which is recognized and represented in the Knesset.

[Question] Do you request anything from the United States in relation to the question of effectively checking the building of settlements by Israel, bearing in mind that Israel's settlement policy is clearly in conflict with what the U.S. President said in his initiative?

[Answer] First of all, what does the building of settlements mean? It means expansion.

With regard to the U.S. attitude, it is known that the United States considers the settlements illegal, but it still helps the Israelis to build settlements by giving them the necessary funds. There is an anomaly here. How can the settlements be considered illegal by the United States when they are built with U.S. funds?

President Reagan announced his initiative and urged the Israelis to stop building settlements. The following day the Israeli Cabinet decided to build five new settlements. Every day we hear about decisions to build new settlements. What has the United States done? Nothing.

How can the United States repatriate the Palestinian people and give them self-determination when it is unable even to stop the building of settlements? How can it ask us to recognize Israel when it is unable to check Israel's expansionist policy? The United States holds many cards. As a matter of fact, every Israeli receives over \$700 from the United States annually. Furthermore, the Israelis rely fully on the United States for armaments, otherwise Sharon would not have been able to enter Beirut or equip an army to fight the Arabs.

The question is: Is the United States capable of using these cards? The next phase is a phase for the United States to prove the independence of U.S. decisions. We are only asking the United States to do what it says and implement its own declarations. We ask the United States to honor its word, not do what we want.

[Question] According to some press reports, you accept the idea of demilitarizing the West Bank and Gaza, and this is what you told the U.S. secretary of state when you met him.

[Answer] We did not put it that way. We say that as a state we do not want to fight anyone and that we do not seek arms for war, but this does not mean having a demilitarized state. There is a difference. A demilitarized state cannot be an independent state. We do not want offensive weapons that would make others feel that their security and safety were threatened. Nobody is against security arrangements, but they must apply to both sides; when they are imposed on one side and not the other, then they become a threat to us.

Milhim Interview

JN091102 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 9 Dec p 19

["Text" of interview with deported West Bank Halhul Mayor Muhammad Hasan Milhim by AD-DUSTUR correspondent Salim Sakit in Amman -- date not given]

[Text] AD-DUSTUR: The foreign media have disseminated a report to the effect that you had conveyed a message from Yasir 'Arafat to officials in the U.S. Administration and that you also brought a message from these officials to 'Arafat. What is your comment?

Milhim: We did not carry any message from Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] to U.S. officials, and, likewise, we did not bring any message from these officials to Yasir 'Arafat.

AD-DUSTUR: Can we understand that your meeting with U.S. officials is a prelude for beginning a direct and indirect dialogue between the U.S. Administration and the PLO?

Milhim: I would like to dot the I's and cross the T's regarding our meeting with U.S. officials. During my stay in Washington with my colleague the deported Hebron Mayor Fahd al-Qawasimi, to attend a seminar on the occupied territories held by a U.S. university, the U.S. secretary of state expressed the desire to meet with us. Out of our firm and specific stand, which dictates that any meeting or participation in any seminar should be handled through the PLO, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, we headed for Tunis to put Brother Abu 'Ammar in the picture. When he gave us the green light, we returned to Washington. We are one people and believe in one leadership and one stand.

Our meeting with Shultz was a valuable opportunity to explain the Palestinian issue and our opinion of the U.S. stand and how this stand should be, particularly following the U.S. initiative. Ever since we were deported, we have been committed to uphold this issue and explain it to the world at large. We first met Shultz' assistants, including Veliotos, at the State Department and briefed them on the Palestinian and Arab position as well as the nature of the U.S. stand.

During the meeting, we also presented our views as to how a just and lasting peace could be achieved. We emphasised the main basic point: There can be no just and lasting peace in the region without fulfilling the ambitions and aspirations of the Palestinian people to determine their own fate and establish their own independent state.

AD-DUSTUR: What did the secretary of state tell you?

Milhim: They asked us about the Fes summit, Palestinian-Jordanian relations, and Palestinian-Arab relations. Our reply was compatible with the interests of our Palestinian people and with those of the Arab people.

AD-DUSTUR: What is your impression of the meeting?

Milhim: During the 45-minute meeting, Shultz listened more than he talked. We spoke for about 30 minutes presenting issues to a U.S. official who influences the charting of U.S. policy which affects our region. The issues we presented could have been presented by any Arab citizen or a sincere Palestinian.

They reflect the definite conviction that there can be no just and lasting peace in the region without Palestinian participation represented by the PLO's role, and also no Palestinian can participate in the peace march or negotiations without the PLO's approval. We believe in Abu 'Ammar and his leadership.

AD-DUSTUR: During the meeting, did you touch on U.S. President Reagan's initiative, and what did you ask the U.S. officials?

Milhim: We outlined our position toward the U.S. initiative, although it lacks the basic principles concerning the Palestinian people in terms of determining their own fate and building their independent state on their national soil. The U.S. Administration should support the positive elements contained in the initiative with regard to the settlements, the withdrawal from the territories occupied in 1967, and the basic rights of the Palestinian people. I would like to tell those who adhere to every single word of the U.S. President's speech [as published] and who are forging ahead in implementing it until the end, that the U.S. initiative must be sincerely implemented so the Palestinian citizen and the Arab and Palestinian officials will realize that the U.S. President and U.S. Administration are serious in what they say. The U.S. Administration knows well how to implement the initiative sincerely.

AD-DUSTUR: What did you sense from the U.S. stand on the recent Arab stands, which has stemmed from the Fes summit?

Milhim: I believe the U.S. Administration is taking these clear-cut and unified Arab stands into consideration. It also considers them the best guarantee for reaching a just peace in the region. The United States should understand that differences and division, whether on the Arab or Palestinian level, will not serve the issue of peace in this region.

AD-DUSTUR: Has the U.S. secretary of state shown any new stand on a peaceful solution in the region?

Milhim: Shultz considers President Reagan's initiative as the basis of a peaceful solution. In the United States, they only speak in these terms and no other terms. I told them: Had I been convinced of each word uttered by the U.S. President, the Palestinian and the Arab citizen would have been convinced and consequently, the aspired peace would have been realized.

AD-DUSTUR: Did you ask the U.S. officials to recognize the PLO?

Milhim: Yes, we told Shultz that it is necessary to recognize the PLO and said that the United States can put pressure on Israel. We gave as an example the issue of the settlements and said that the United States could cut a part of the funds allocated by Israel to the settlements, a cut demanded by some as economic sanctions. But if the United States wants to follow another course, then it is up to them. Had they convinced Begin or the Israelis that they, the Americans, were serious, I am confident that the Israelis would not have continued to challenge Reagan's statement from the first day it was issued. The use of sanctions may not be necessary, but the U.S. Administration should make Israel understand that the United States will be ready to use sanctions if the situation requires it.

AD-DUSTUR: Do you believe that direct U.S.-Palestinian contacts will take place in the future?

Milhim: In fact, we did not define future meetings. This matter is not clear, but we hope, after our meeting, that the PLO will be dealt with and contacted directly because the PLO represents the Palestinian people and nobody can be an alternative to the PLO.

AD-DUSTUR: Is there a new U.S. concept of Jordanian-Palestinian cooperation and coordination?

Milhim: It was made clear that the U.S. stand on this issue is represented by the U.S. Administration's belief in the need for a Jordanian-Palestinian participation in the first stage of the peace process. Naturally, this will be decided by the Jordanians and the Palestinians if this can preserve Palestinian rights,

MAPAM ON HISTADRUT BUILDING SETTLEMENTS

TA121901 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 12 Dec 82

[Text] The MAPAM faction of the Histadrut has urgently demanded a discussion of the active participation of Histadrut construction companies in building projects beyond the Green Line. In a letter to the Histadrut secretary, MAPAM representative Naftali Ben-Moshe wrote that the settlements in Judaea and Samaria are today at the heart of the public controversy between the Labor movement and the Likud. It is inconceivable that Histadrut companies take part in Likud settlement plans, whose aim is to thwart in advance a peace solution based on compromise. The MAPAM representative said the economic exigencies facing the construction companies are understood, but it is inconceivable that in such important matters of principle, the companies' directorates be given a free hand to decide on their own. In this matter, MAPAM shares the view of MK Yosef Sarid.

Meanwhile, the Histadrut construction firms themselves have responded to the criticism leveled against them, saying they will continue to build beyond the Green Line until the Hevrat Ha'ovdim [umbrella company and legal framework for Histadrut enterprises] institutions decided otherwise. Speaking to our economic affairs correspondent, elements of these companies said that it is preferable that experienced companies do the building beyond the Green Line, and not new bodies lacking experience in setting up settlements. Our correspondent remarks that the Histadrut's Shikun 'Ovdim Company is careful to build only in Ma'ale Adummim, whose establishment was decided on when the Alignment was in power. Shikun 'Ovdim does not build in areas of dense Arab population, since such settlement is contrary to the Alignment's platform. In contrast, Solel Boneh's Diyur Company and Koor's Yuval Gad Company -- both Histadrut companies -- do not limit themselves to certain areas of construction.

ZIONIST CONGRESS RESOLUTION 'DEFEAT FOR LIKUD'

TA150539 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 15 Dec 82

[Text] Last night, the Zionist Congress passed its first political resolution, and it is interpreted as a defeat for the Likud. The congress called for not supporting settlement harmful to the rehabilitation of the slum neighborhoods. The resolution was passed after 2 hours of repeated votes, which were accompanied by arguments and accusations of rigging. Earlier, blows were again exchanged because of MAPAM's proposal to transfer the funds allocated for settlement to the neighborhood rehabilitation project. The proposal was supported both by the Alignment and Sephardic federation activists. MK Abu-Hatzera said that if the coalition opposes TAMI's joining the Zionist Federation Executive, it may affect TAMI's membership in the government.

ALGERIASALAH KHALAF MEETS FOREIGN MINISTER IBRAHIMI

JN141747 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 14 Dec 82

[Text] Brother Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], Fatah Central Committee member, met with Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Talib Ibrahimi in Algiers today. They discussed the current situation in the Arab region in light of the current developments, foremost of which are the Palestinian political moves and the Aden meeting and its consequences in the future stage.

The meeting was held in a cordial atmosphere during which identical views were expressed. After the meeting, Brother Abu Iyad made a statement to our correspondent in Algiers in which he said: Our meeting with Brother Ahmed Talib Ibrahimi has taken place within the framework of consultations on the latest developments of the Palestinian cause. He added: We appreciate the efforts exerted by Algeria during the recent war in Lebanon and after it, particularly within the framework of the seven-member Arab committee.

Abu Iyad said: During this meeting, we agreed on several moves on the international and Arab levels for the Palestinian revolution and cause. I extend fraternal greetings to the Algerian efforts on all levels, particularly those exerted by my brother Ahmed Talib Ibrahimi, who has always adopted Arab and national stands for the sake of our revolution and cause.

FLN OFFICIAL MESSAADIA RECEIVES PFLP'S HABASH

LD142220 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Dec 82

[Text] Yesterday afternoon, Mohammed Cherif Messaadia, member of the Algerian FLN Political Bureau and official responsible for the Central Committee Permanent Secretariat, received a Palestinian delegation led by Comrade George Habash, secretary general of the PFLP. The two sides reviewed the latest developments in the situation in the Arab arena and the struggle of the Palestinian people at the military and political level. The two sides also exchanged views on current world issues.

Dr George Habash is expected to address a mass political symposium at the Mugar Hall in Algiers today at 1700.

LIBYA'TENS OF THOUSANDS' RELEASED FROM ARMED FORCES

LD141910 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0810 GMT 14 Dec 82

[Text] Tripoli, 14 Dec -- Informed sources told JANA yesterday that tens of thousands of soldiers were released from the regular Libyan Arab Armed Forces last week after having completed their military service.

This, these sources point out, affirms Libya's march forward toward the final abolition of the regular military establishment and its replacement with the armed people "so that self-defense will take the place of the traditional army."

The JANA political editor, commenting on this, reports: There is no longer any meaning for the traditional military establishment in a society that is run by popular conferences and committees. He added that the creation of the armed people will bolster freedom and will mean that Libyans will defend themselves should Libyan or any Arab soil be the object of external aggression.

The Libyan Arab people, who guide their own affairs, who have consolidated freedom in their country, and who are proud of the freedom they have wrested with blood, cannot have any aggressive policies or intentions toward others because the cause of freedom is indivisible.

PDRY CULTURE MINISTER THABIT ARRIVES 11 DEC

LD121012 Tripoli JANA in English 0845 GMT 12 Dec 82

[Text] Tripoli, Safar 26, Dec 12, Jamahiriya News Agency -- Mr. Rashid Muhammad Thabit, member of the Central Committee and minister of culture and tourism, and Mr. Abdelwahid Abdallah Ayyad, the education's deputy minister in the Democratic Republic of Yemen, arrived here yesterday evening.

The Yemeni minister expressed to JANA's correspondent his happiness to visit the Jamahiriya and said his visit is part of the joint cooperation and coordination in the cultural and information fields and stressed the necessity to promote and consolidate relations in all fields in order to create a firm basis for the realisation of unionist action between the two brotherly peoples.

MOROCCAN STUDENTS REPORTED ON STRIKE IN OUJDA

LD141532 Tripoli Voice of Arab Homeland in Arabic 0215 GMT 14 Dec 82

[Text] It was learned from Rabat yesterday evening that secondary schools and university students at Oujda have been on strike since the beginning of last week and that bloody clashes have taken place between students and Moroccan repression forces which resulted in the injury of some students.

It was learned that the strikes began at the Birkan secondary school and spread from there to other schools at Oujda. The Moroccan information media have reported nothing about the strikes which have been going on for over 10 days.

MAP today carried a brief report about these strikes claiming they were caused by some problems particularly in connection with curricula. However the reports affirm that the students' are on strike because of campaigns of repression, oppression and beatings by the Moroccan repression forces against the students. This is in addition to the bad economic and political conditions in the country.

MOROCCO

ENVOY DELIVERS TWO HASSAN MESSAGES TO REAGAN

LD151000 Rabat MAP in Arabic 0900 GMT 15 Dec 82

[Text] Washington, 15 Dec (MAP) -- U.S. President Ronald Reagan received at the White House last night the Moroccan ambassador to the United States, Ali Benjelloun, who handed him two messages from His Majesty King Hassan II. The messages were described as "extremely important" and concern the situation in the Middle East within the context of the efforts being made by His Majesty King Hassan II in his capacity as chairman of the 12th Arab summit conference and of the seven-member committee with the aim of finding a solution to the Middle East crisis.

ETHIOPIAEPLF FIGHTERS KILL, WOUND 'MANY ENEMY SOLDIERS'

EAL12102 (Clandestine) Voice of the Broad Masses of Eritrea in Tigrigna 0400 GMT
11 Dec 82

[Text] On 7 December, Eritrean People's Liberation Front [EPLF] fighters attacked an enemy force in the Bizen area, killing 10 soldiers and wounding 25 others.

In another military engagement, two vehicles carrying enemy soldiers were blown up on 8 December when they rode over a land mine buried by EPLF fighters in the environs of Adi (Shemagile) and (Wekti). Many enemy soldiers were killed or wounded.

AR-RAYAH REPORTS ERITREAN FACTIONS' AGREEMENT

GF131919 Doha AR-RAYAH in Arabic 12 Dec 82 pp 1, 13

["Exclusive" report from Khartoum]

[Text] Two Eritrean factions have signed a cease-fire agreement to put an end to the state of hostility that has been continuing since last year, and to pave the way for the summit negotiations which are currently taking place among other Eritrean revolution factions in order to reach a national program that can eliminate the current crisis in the revolution, which has resulted from the civil conflicts and wars.

The two factions which signed the cease-fire agreement and formed a joint military committee to implement the agreement are the Revolutionary Council, led by ('Abdallah Idris), and the Popular Liberation Forces, led by Osman Saleh Sabbe.

One of the other terms in the agreement is the freezing of cooperation between the Popular Liberation Forces and the dissident wing of the Revolutionary Council, led by Dr (Hibti), which has opposed ('Abdallah Idris') leadership of the organization since last March, when the former leader of the organization, Ahmad Nasser, and others were arrested.

It seems that the agreement included the current cooperation between the Revolutionary Council, ('Abdallah Idris') group and the Revolutionary Committee led by (Abu Baker Jame'), a dissident group that split from the Popular Liberation Forces.

Regarding the organization of the Eritrean situation, a summit meeting between Osman Sabbe and ('Abdallah Idris) was held the end of last month, during which each side presented a joint action plan, starting with political, media information and military cooperation inside and outside the Eritrean arena, which in the end will lead to the unity of the Eritrean arena or to the establishment of constitutional institutions in the Palestinian format.

AR-RAYAH's investigations indicate that several Arab countries have attended and patronized the current Eritrean meetings in implementation of resolutions of the Arab League, whose Secretariat recognized the Eritrean issue and held a meeting of the Eritrean leadership in Tunisia 2 years ago.

BCP'S KUBADINSKI LEAVES AFTER COMMISSION MEETING

EAL31158 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 0400 GMT 13 Dec 82

[Summary] Comrade Pencho Kubadinski, member of the Bulgarian Communist Party [BCP] Central Committee Politburo, left for home yesterday after attending the Ethiopia-Bulgaria joint commission meeting in Addis Ababa.

ISRAELIS TO BE ALLOWED TO VISIT JEWISH COMMUNITY

EA132028 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 13 Dec 82

[Excerpt] Ethiopian authorities are reported to have decided to allow foreign observers, notably from Israel, to visit the Jewish community after reports that its members were being maltreated. The Ethiopian Government was reacting to accusations by Israel that the Ethiopian Jews, otherwise known as Falashas, who are estimated to number 28,000, have been prevented from leaving for Israel since 1975. The Ethiopian Government at the same time accused Israel of organizing illegal immigration of the Falashas through Sudan.

KENYAOFFICIAL REJECTS ALLEGATION BY UGANDA RADIO

EA102030 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 10 Dec 82

[Text] The minister of state in the office of the president, Mr Justus Ole Tipis, has stated that Kenya believes in good neighborliness and will never harbor criminals or subversive elements from neighboring countries. Mr Ole Tipis further pointed out that Kenya cannot allow itself to be used as a base for subversion against its neighbors. Mr Tipis made these remarks in a strongly-worded press release issued to the Kenya News Agency today.

This is in reaction to an article appearing in one of the local papers this morning regarding a shooting incident in Kampala which involved members of the diplomatic corps in the Indian High Commission in Kampala in which the assassins are alleged to have been from Kenya.

The minister stated that Kenya totally rejects this allegation and said it was false and grossly unfounded. He further expressed surprise that Radio Uganda should carry such insinuations. Mr Tipis reaffirmed that Kenya has always and will continue to cooperate with the Ugandan Government for the mutual benefit of the two countries.

The local paper's report alleged that the assassins of the diplomat at the Indian High Commission in Kampala were based in Kenya.

PRESIDENT MOI CRITICIZES FOREIGN MEDIA

EA141632 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 14 Dec 82

[Excerpt] His Excellency President Daniel arap Moi said today that the foreign media and newspapers calling some African heads of state progressive and others moderates were putting a wedge between African states. The president said such media were trying to undermine the intelligence of African leaders, but nobody could dance to the tune of somebody else. President Moi, who is the current chairman of the OAU, said Africa would continue to consider its issues as one people from one continent.

Opening the 25th annual delegates conference of the Kenya National Union of Teachers at the Kenyatta International Conference Center in Nairobi, President Moi said that it is for the leaders of Africa to remain united for the welfare of their people, otherwise they would live to regret. The president stressed that the unity of African states was very important not only to individual countries, but also in the interest of its people. He said such unity could only be created if there was love for humanity.

SOMALIADEFENSE FORCE CONFRONTS ETHIOPIAN AIR RAID

EA141810 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1115 GMT 14 Dec 82

[Text] A report from the Somali Defense Ministry says that at 0745 today, two Abyssinian MiG-21's raided (Baidoa), in Bai region. The aircraft were bravely confronted by the Somali Air Defense Force, which prevented them from carrying out their mission. They did not cause any damage.

FRONT: FOREIGN MINISTER ADMITS 'GRAVE' FIGHTING

EA142344 (Clandestine) Radio Halkan in Somali to Somalia 1800 GMT 14 Dec 82

[Text] The so-called foreign minister of the dictatorial Mogadishu regime, Abdurahman Jama Barre, has admitted for the first time that fighting between the so-called administration of Siad Barre and the opposition Somali forces has reached a grave level, according to the UAE news agency WAM. The agency quoted him as saying this on his 3-day visit to the UAE.

Abdurahman Jama Barre has recently visited many Arab countries seeking economic and diplomatic support for the antipeople regime of which he is minister and which is currently facing economic and political difficulties.

RADIO HALGAN CLAIMS BARRE AGENTS BRIBING PEOPLE

EA142322 (Clandestine) Radio Halkan in Somali to Somalia 1800 GMT 14 Dec 82

[Text] Delegations of the dictatorial Barre regime are currently visiting many regions of our country trying to implement the regime's divide-and-rule policy. The delegations, whose most recent visits have taken them to the Northwest and Nugal regions, are reported to be trying to divide the people into different clans, bribing them with suitcases full of the regime's worthless money.

Our political commentator, commenting on the motives behind the visits, says they are aimed at creating rivalry and opposition among the Somali people, thus destroying their unity and eventually weakening their struggle to topple Siad Barre's antipeople regime.

UGANDAUGANDA-CUBA AMITY SOCIETY CONSIDERS NEW BRANCHES

EA142316 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 14 Dec 82

[Text] The National Secretariat for the newly-formed Uganda-Cuba Friendship Society has set up a task force to explore the possibilities of opening up branches throughout the country. This was disclosed by the Uganda-Cuba Friendship Society national organizing secretary, Mr (Koiz Matata). He said the decision to open up branches was reached at the first meeting of the National Executive Committee held in Kampala last week. The chairman of the society, Mr (Mutome Wesala), is currently touring eastern Uganda, while another group is visiting western region. The third group will soon leave for the northern region.

CONGOLABOR, FRENCH SOCIALIST PARTIES HOLD TALKS

AB131128 Brazzaville Domestic Service in French 1230 GMT 12 Dec 82

[Text] A delegation of the French Socialist Party, PS, visited the Congo from 10 to 11 December at the invitation of the Congolese Labor Party [PCT]. (Jean Coutinguer), head of the delegation and a member of the PS Executive Bureau and the national secretary for international relations, and his comrades held talks in both Brazzaville and Pointe Noire with the chairman of the Central Committee, Comrade Denis Sassou-Nguesso and members of the Political Bureau. These talks, which were described as fruitful for both parties, reactivated relations between the PSF and PCT. A joint communique was signed at the end of these talks. We now give you an excerpt read by Comrade Jean Lima Beka, the head of division in charge of relations with socialist and communist parties at the External Relations Department:

[Begin recording] The Congolese delegation recognized the action taken by the PS in implementing the resolutions adopted at its congress held in November 1981 at Valence. It also took note of the efforts made by the PS within the framework of the socioeconomic and political change by the leftwing government in France. The French delegation was informed of the work done in the Congo under the leadership of the PCT in connection with the resolutions of its third extraordinary congress of March 1971, particularly the proper implementation of the 1982-86 5-year economic development plan.

On the international situation, the two delegations expressed their concern over the world situation fraught with aggression and threats to world peace.

On the situation in Africa, particularly in southern Africa, the two delegations strongly condemned South Africa's occupation and its aggression against the people of Angola, acts which definitely endanger the situation in that African subregion. Meanwhile, they expressed satisfaction with the French stand adopted within the contact group on the settlement of the Namibian problem and with the stands taken by the French Government for the establishment of a new world economic order.

On the Middle East, the two parties expressed their concern over the areas of tension maintained in the region thus creating confusion. They supported an equitable solution of this crisis by giving due consideration to the fundamental and legitimate rights of all the peoples concerned. The two parties reaffirmed their unwavering support for the struggle of the oppressed people of Africa, America and Asia to ensure respect for their right to self-determination. They further placed special emphasis on our common concern over the arms race and the danger it could present to Africa. In view of the situation, the PS and the PCT declared their support for an immediate halt to the arms race and for all international efforts which may help lead to a fair and total disarmament.

The two delegations noted with satisfaction the frank and friendly atmosphere.
[end recording]

PS Delegation Leader Comments

AB131238 Brazzaville Domestic Service in French 1230 GMT 12 Dec 82

[Text] After his audience yesterday with the chairman of the Central Committee, (Jacques Coutinguer) spoke to (Jacques Maronmbi) in the following terms to describe the relations between the PS and the PCT.

[Begin recording] When I arrived in the Congo, in Brazzaville, I said we were pleased to be in this country with which we have very close links. Today we are leaving with confidence, confidence in French-Congolese relations, confidence in the development of relations between the PCT and PS and confidence in the future and the building of a more dynamic, stronger and more harmonious society in the Congo as well as in France. Both of us, I believe, the Congo and France, are trying to build socialism; the two attempts have historical and cultural concepts which are similar but we have a great deal to contribute to one another, the French and the Congolese, [words indistinct] relations that we would like to have in the future between the two parties, between French and Congolese socialists.

RWANDA

COMMUNIQUE DISCLOSES 1982 BUDGET DEFICIT

AB120847 Paris AFP in French 1124 GMT 11 Dec 82

[Text] Kigali, 11 Dec (AFP) -- The deficit of Rwanda's regular budget in 1982 will be \$23 million, according to a communique from the government council presided over by General Juvenal Habyarimana.

This communique mentions the considerable reduction of the government's financial resources particularly as a result of the drop in world prices of coffee and raw materials, the fall in mining production and the operational difficulties of the Rwandan tea and pyrethrum companies which are not able to sell their products.

These difficulties have particularly affected the development budget which will be \$36.5 million in 1983, which is a 1.52 percent reduction from 1982. From 1981 to 1982, the development budget increased by 19.74 percent.

The security budget will be \$22,650,000 in 1983. Total estimates have been fixed at \$184,405,335 or an increase of 12.33 percent in the current budget compared to the last fiscal year.

The Rwandan Government has also called on the entire country to make an effort to ensure austerity and strict management.

In this connection, the government has announced emergency measures including the reduction of staff growth in the public administration with the exception of the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education.

ZAIRE

MPR CONGRESS PROMOTES MOBUTU TO FIELD MARSHAL

AB131108 Kinshasa Domestic Service in French 1130 GMT 12 Dec 82

[Text] A motion adopted by the Third Ordinary MPR Congress promoted the leader, Mobutu Sese Seko, to the rank of field marshal. Citizen Kitima Bin Ramazani, permanent secretary of the MPR Central Committee and general rapporteur of the congress, who announced this decision, explained that it was adopted by the congress on the proposal of the Order of the Companions of the Revolution as a mark of gratitude for his great feats of arms and his various acts of bravery.

Adopts Resolutions

AB131443 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1600 GMT 12 Dec 82

[Resolutions adopted by Third MPR Congress held at the Party House at Nsele from 6 to 11 December]

[Excerpt] Resolutions on foreign policy:

The third MPR Congress reaffirming the faithfulness of the Republic of Zaire to the UN Charter and to the OAU Charter, and reaffirming also Zaire's duty to Africa, its policy of good neighborliness and its open arms policy toward the world without any exclusion, strongly reaffirms Zaire's attachment to the following principles:

- Noninterference in the internal affairs of states;
- The sovereign equality of states;
- The territorial integrity and the political independence of states.
- Nonresort to force or threat to use force in international relations.
- The peaceful solution to conflicts.
- The self-determination of peoples.

Considering that peoples and nations cannot develop under a system of subjection, dependence and exploitation; convinced that apartheid constitutes a crime against humanity; convinced that Africa's economic development can be achieved only in peace and by progressive economic integration on the national, subregional and regional levels; having in mind the Lagos conference's final act and plan of action on the collective autonomy of African states and the progressive economic integration of the continent by the year 2000; considering that the resurgence of the cold war, the endless race for the most sophisticated arms, the fight for influence and hegemony constitute a threat to world peace, stability and security, the congress:

1. Congratulates the MPR founding chairman for his constant efforts to strengthen our relations of good neighborliness and to promote a policy of friendship and cooperation with all nations of the world,
2. Reaffirms Zaire's faith in the United Nations and the OAU and favors any initiatives likely to safeguard African unity and to revitalize and strengthen its activities,
3. Appeals to all African leaders to respect the OAU Charter and safeguard the spirit of the founding of our continental organization,
4. Encourages all initiatives aimed at peacefully solving all international conflicts in conformity with the UN Charter and the OAU Charter by resorting to the machinery provided for this,
5. Condemns the intransigence and arrogance of the racist and reactionary regime in South Africa which ignores the OAU resolutions and obstinately refuses to apply majority rule and the pertinent UN resolutions, particularly Security Council Resolution 435 (1978) in favor of Namibia's independence,

6. Reaffirms that Security Council Resolution 435 should be diligently implemented without any modification or impediments for Namibia to attain its independence in 1983,

7. Condemns South Africa's repeated acts of aggression and destabilization against Angola and other neighboring countries and demands an end to these acts,

8. Reaffirms Zaire's adherence to the Caracas plan of action on cooperation between developing countries and herewith invites Third World countries to first of all be self-reliant and to show solidarity with each other by increasing the volume of their trade and ensuring their economic integration,

9. Invites all peace and justice-loving countries to undertake concerted and efficient actions so that financial and human resources used for the arms race will be used instead for economic, social, cultural and scientific development of the world in general and the Third World in particular.

On economy and finance:

A. Resolution on general policy:

The Third MPR Congress which met at the Party House at Nsele from 6 to 10 December 1982, after reviewing the opening speech of the founding chairman of the MPR and president of the republic, particularly the part on the economic and social sectors; taking note of the new orientation in drawing up the consistent plan from the base to the summit as defined by the MPR founding chairman and president of the republic; considering that national development must continue [words indistinct] fundamental principles of the MPR; considering that the persistent economic crisis in the world has accentuated internal economic difficulties of our country; considering that each nation will be judged by its ability to feed its people; considering that the Mobutu plan still has value and considering that it has already provided the basis for an economic recovery and stabilization; considering thus the urgent need to increase production and safeguard the national economic gains with the aim of allowing the economy to attain an acceptable growth rate and thus give a fresh impetus to the nation's economic development; considering the precise orientations for economic recovery given by the founding chairman of the MPR and president of the republic in his report at the opening of the Third MPR Congress on 7 December 1982,

1. Strongly stresses that the economic policy of the MPR is based on economic nationalism whose objective is economic independence and placing the economy at the service of man,

2. Invites all the organs of the MPR to increasingly adhere to this fundamental principle in all actions to be undertaken in the economic and social sector,

3. Reaffirms the policy of free enterprise and the liberalization of agricultural and industrial prices,

4. Urges the administrative organs to:

a. Mobilize all Zairians in the national development effort and

b. Carry out regional economic decentralization.

5. Invites the Executive Council to further facilitate the importation of the appropriate technology needed to improve local production,

6. Charges the Executive Council with drawing up a 5-year economic and social plan to implement the Mobutu plan.

B) Resolutions on agriculture and rural development:

The MPR, meeting in its third ordinary congress, considering that to achieve economic independence and put the economy at the service of man at the agricultural level requires first ensuring self-sufficiency in food and second, attaining surplus production for local industries and export; considering that the present level of our agricultural production is below our needs; considering the urgent need to solve our chronic shortage of common consumer goods such as corn, rice, sugar, fish and meat; considering the speech by the MPR founding chairman and president of the republic at the opening of the Central Committee's second ordinary session with regard to the quantification of agricultural production targets; considering the need to relentlessly pursue the struggle against poaching to maintain our national prestige and to devise ways to ensure the rational use of our fauna and flora for the development of the rural masses; considering state decision No 07-CC-81 of the Central Committee and the relevant directives in the field of agriculture, congratulates the MPR founding chairman and president of the republic on the efforts already made toward agricultural recovery particularly:

1. The reorganization of the agricultural and rural development department,
2. The formulation of 1982-1983 agricultural prices through the country,
3. The liberalization of agricultural prices throughout the country,
4. The considerable budget increase in 1982 for the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment,
5. The turning over of some production projects to the private sector in order to improve their output,
6. The rehabilitation of the agricultural management by using in particular private companies and professional bodies,
7. The establishment of a road maintenance system for the agricultural service roads according to climatic conditions,
8. The effective establishment of the Agricultural Credit Bank, recommends:
 1. That during the implementation of the agricultural recovery plan, the Executive Council take all steps to ensure in the next 5 years self-sufficiency in corn, cassava, rice, sugar and fish and likewise that efforts be pursued to gradually solve the problem of the meat shortage,
 2. That the Executive Council supervise the attainment of the production targets assigned to each one within the framework of the 1982-1984 agricultural recovery plan,
 3. That the Executive Council relentlessly pursue state decision No 07-CC-81 of the Central Committee and the relevant directives on agriculture and rural development especially by:
 - a. Permanently mobilizing all the nation's dynamic forces to ensure the success of the agricultural recovery plan,
 - b. Encouraging better remuneration of the farmer in order to increase his output by liberalizing agricultural prices,
 - c. Improving the technical means of production by using plow animals,

d. Popularizing the system of conservation of agricultural products by establishing the appropriate storage facilities,

e. Making available to farmers and other economic agents involved in agriculture, mainly the producers of food products, agricultural inputs such as fertilizers, improved seeds, and farming implements while respecting the imperatives of the agricultural calendar,

f. Organizing village markets,

g. Improving the living standards and working conditions of the farmer so as to halt rural depopulation,

h. Guaranteeing agricultural research by making available appropriate resources to existing centers.

4. That the Executive Council continue road construction and maintenance to aid agriculture,

5. That the Executive Council embark on a merciless struggle to stop the smuggling of agricultural products.

C. Resolution on transportation and communications:

The MPR, meeting in its third ordinary congress, considering that the lack of transportation equipment and the poor condition of roads constitute a serious impediment to the regular supply of the whole country; considering that economic independence and consequently harmonious development depend on the smooth organization and improvement of the means of communications, particularly of the national highway; considering that transportation and communications undeniably constitute a factor of useful exchange among people and a support for production and national development,

1. Requests Executive Council formulate a program for improving and final constructing of the interregional service roads,

2. Urges the Executive Council to reorganize the entire transportation system with an integrated view to ensuring the connections between various regions and by removing the obstacles which impede the free flow of persons and goods,

3. Recommends that the Executive Council rehabilitate the national transportation infrastructures companies (ports, railroads, airports and equipment, etc.) so as to facilitate the transportation of agricultural products to the center where they are consumed.

D. Resolution on mines and energy:

The MPR, meeting in its third ordinary congress, considering that the world energy crisis has not spared our country; considering that enormous energy potential can be tapped and operated in our country in such a way as to contribute to national development; considering that the present system of distributing oil products is liable to impede the implementation of the agricultural recovery program; considering the importance of the mining sector in our country's economy, urges the Executive Council to:

1. Gradually offset the energy shortage with our own resources by encouraging and promoting projects for the construction of stations and microstations, the use of solar energy, the exploitation of the methane gas of Lake Kivu and from biomass and by intensifying oil and other energy sources research,

2. Guarantee the importation of oil products and ensure their equitable distribution throughout the country while giving priority to the agricultural sector,
3. Ensure the rational use of hydroelectric energy produced in Inga and elsewhere,
4. Improve the marketing of mining products, while severely punishing all smuggling,
5. Recommend to the mining firms that they diversify their production activities as much as possible so as to ensure the gradual change of their social objective since our mineral resources are expected to run out.

F. Resolution on finance, budget and state inheritance:

The Third MPR Ordinary Congress, considering that the Executive Council's agricultural intensification plan needs to be implemented with strict discipline; considering that budget is an essential expression and instrument for the economic and financial policy of a state and that, consequently, it must be judiciously and correctly executed; considering the imperative need to succeed in this plan,

1. Urges the Executive Council to do everything possible to realize its policy of financial reorganization, specifically through:
 - a. The adoption of permanent fiscal measures,
 - b. The maximum collection of revenues,
 - c. The rational use of all financial resources,
 - d. The strict execution of the financial law,
 - e. The use of all possible means to recover all the country's credits,
 - f. The fight against the misuse of public funds,
 - g. A strict administration and safeguard of the state's inheritance.
 2. Requests the Executive Council to prepare the state budget taking into account its real resources and by using, as a matter of priority, all avenues at the state's disposal to contribute to raising revenues,
 3. Recommends that the Executive Council elaborate a policy to enable it to obtain loans in order to accelerate the development of the nation's middle class,
 4. Exhorts the Executive Council to adopt a policy of a stable regional distribution of the state's investment projects,
 5. Invites the Legislative Council and the Executive Council to strengthen the permanent mechanism for control of the national budget,
 6. Suggests the Executive Council rapidly modify the financial law with the view to adapting it to the new policy of decentralization -- with the aim of enabling the newly decentralized units to stand on their own and also to ensure they develop without expecting everything from the central administration.
- F. Resolution on the manufacturing industry: The Third MPR Ordinary Congress considering our policy of economic independence which was reaffirmed by the MPR founding chairman and president of the republic in his moral report; considering our desire to integrate the national economy as a whole and the industrial economy in particular, recommends to the Executive Council to extend the development agreements to all enterprises, especially those capable of locally producing their raw material.

BENINSUPREME SOVIET DELEGATION DEPARTS 14 DEC

AB142133 Cotonou Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 14 Dec 82

[Text] The Supreme Soviet delegation that has been in the country for several days left Cotonou for home today. Before departure, the five-member delegation met with newsmen. In his statement on this occasion, the head of the delegation, Comrade (Mutikin Vladinin), assessed his delegation's various contacts with the Beninese authorities and expressed the belief that relations between the Soviet and Beninese peoples would be further strengthened.

[Begin (Mutikin Vladinin) recording in Russian followed by French translation] Before leaving the People's Republic of Benin, I wish to express on my own behalf and on behalf of the Supreme Soviet delegation our profound gratitude to the Beninese people, to the Beninese Revolutionary National Assembly, and to President Kerekou for the cordial hospitality accorded us during our stay in your country.

During our stay, we visited several production units in many provinces, and we realized that the Beninese laboring masses under the Beninese People's Revolutionary Party are steadily progressing on the path of revolution toward social and economic progress and aspire to building a new society free from man's exploitation by man.

In following that path, the Beninese people have successfully achieved major results and strengthened the fundamental objectives of the Beninese revolution. We sincerely admire the Beninese people's achievements which we have been able to assess ourselves while in the country. We are sure that the ties of friendship and cooperation between our two countries will be further consolidated and expanded on the basis of the sovereignty and their respective policies in the interest of the Soviet and Beninese peoples as well as world peace and security. We want to reiterate our thanks to our Beninese friends for their warm and hospitable reception. We also want to assure you that we will long remember our very pleasant stay in your beautiful country. [end recording]

GHANAPNDC DISSOLVES NDC FOR COUP INVOLVEMENT

AB141835 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 14 Dec 82

[text] The PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council] has dissolved with immediate effect the membership of the National Defense Committee [NDC]. An official statement issued in Accra this evening said the PNDC has noted with grave concern the infiltration into the NDC and its Secretariat of counterrevolutionary elements. It said preliminary investigations into the attempted coup of 23 November 1982 have confirmed the involvement of sections of the NDC and its Secretariat, particularly its leaders, in the attempt. The council further directs the dissolution of the national Secretariat of the NDC in Accra and the regional secretariats in the Greater Accra and the Volta regions for the role of the leadership in the misuse of the power of the defense committees and in acting contrary to the aspirations of the people in the two regions.

The council has set up with immediate effect an NDC standing committee to expedite the process of PDCs [People's Defense Committees] electing representatives to the membership of the NDC, the regional and district secretariats.

Pending the reconstitution of the membership of the NDC, the standing committee will also perform the functions of the dissolved NDC.

The membership of the standing committee shall be as follows: Mrs Aanaa Enin, chairperson; Mr Steven Ocansey, member; Mr S. Gariba, member; Dr Ansah Asamoah, member; Miss Lucy Osei, member; coordinator [as heard], armed forces PDCs; coordinator police PDCs; Mr Kofi Duku, member Mr Akraasi-Sarpong, secretary for PDCs, WDCs [as heard] [workers' defense committee] as member-secretary.

In addition to the normal functions of the NDC, the standing committee shall have as its responsibilities the making of appointments to the NDC Secretariat and the vetting of officers of PDCs at all levels. It will also supervise election of officers to the district and regional secretariats and introduce to the public the new defense committee guidelines which shall aim at galvanizing all truly patriotic citizens for national development. The committee will make the necessary arrangements to take care of the Greater Accra and the Volta regional secretariats until democratic elections are held to constitute the NDC secretariats in the two regions. Similar directives have been issued by the PNDC to the armed forces, the police and the prison service to undertake similar overhaul and reorganization of the PDCs at all levels within the services. The object of this reorganization exercise is to strengthen th PDCs and make them more democratic and effective in mobilizing the people for development of the country.

UNIVERSITY STUDENTS STAGE ANTI-PNDC PROTEST

AB141908 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 14 Dec 82

[Text] There were two rival demonstrations at the University of Ghana, Legon, today. At a demonstration in favor of the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council] workers of the university demanded the closure of the university. This formed part of a six-point resolution adopted at a rally near the cafeteria after the demonstration. The resolution called on the council to be firm in dealing with all agents of counter-revolution. The government must also give full material support to the formation of people's militia to deal with all counterrevolutionary activities. The workers urged the PNDC to come out with a program around which Ghanaians can be mobilized to advance the revolution. At the same time, they expressed solidarity with the progressive section of the student body who are on the side of the suffering workers and people.

The workers' demonstration followed one held in the morning by a group of students calling on the PNDC to handover power to a national government. The earlier demonstration was held by some students from four halls. Correspondents say the student body was divided almost 50-50 on whether to hold the demonstration at all. Those opposing the PNDC had called for the release and trial of political detainees.

The workers, however, believed that some student leaders had collected monies from discredited politicians. They said if the activities of these students are not checked they would pose a serious danger to the ongoing revolution. According to a team of GBC [Ghana Broadcasting Corporation] correspondents who visited the campus, most of the students have started leaving in compliance with the workers' ultimatum. The vice chancellor of the university, Professor Adjei-Bekoe, who was contacted for comment on developments on the campus said he had none to make until the Academic Board or the University Council has met. At present all seems quiet on the campus. The university is scheduled to close for the Christmas holidays on Friday.

Earlier, concerned students of the university declared a vote of no confidence in the Student's Representative Council [SRC]. A statement issued by 9-member press committee of the group said the concerned students dissociate themselves from recent resolutions coming from the junior common room.

The students condemned maneuvers by minority interest groups of students who have allowed themselves to be used as instruments for misleading the largest student body. They said by its one-sided stand on various national issues as well as recent developments on the campus and within the student movement, the SRC has abused the integrity of students on issues affecting their general welfare.

GRAPHIC Comments on Protest

AB150834 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 15 Dec 82

[From the press review]

[Text] THE GRAPHIC comments on yesterday's rival demonstrations at the University of Ghana, Legon; one by students demanding the handover of power by the Provisional National Defense Council [PNDC] and the university Workers Defense Committee [WDC] against students who planned the action. It says the workers body has shown that when they are struggling for real power, they will not entertain any diversionary maneuvers. This gives the revolution a new dimension because the action of the concerned group of students and the WDC has shown that instead of the normal military or police clamp-down real class positions have been taken. The paper points out that yesterday's events cannot be divorced from the counterrevolutionary operators now in motion. Those the revolution has dispossessed of their illegal riches and the big powers who see in the revolution the lighting of the flame for Africa's economic independence cannot sit down and consent. It is the view of the paper that any people united and determined to defend the cause can never be defeated.

WORKERS COUNCIL CRITICIZES STUDENTS' STAND

AB150827 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 15 Dec 82

[Text] The Ghana Workers Unions Council has criticized the attitude and stand of the National Union of Ghana Students [NUGS] against the revolution. At an emergency meeting in Accra, the council said the stand of the NUGS today clearly indicates their position as counterrevolutionaries. It asks the NUGS to bear in mind that they are being fed on the toil and sweat of the working class and, as such, all their counteractivities are aimed at this class of people. Such actions will be resisted with all the powers of the working class. The council also demanded the immediate closure of the universities till the country's financial position improves. It suggested that the reopening of the universities should be based on, as it puts it, national service scheme since after completion of their courses they leave to other countries without paying back the taxpayers' money spent on their education.

PNDC MEMBER ASKED TO CONFIRM OR DENY RESIGNATION

AB141430 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 14 Dec 82

[Text] The Teshie-Nungua branch of the June 4th Movement has denounced a letter purported to have been written by Mr Chris Atim, member of the Provisional National Defense Council [PNDC], which is currently circulating as a leaflet on the university campuses and in some foreign embassies.

The letter, which is dated the 3rd of December 1982, announces the resignation of Mr Chris Atim and further fabricates monstrous lies against some members of the government. In a statement issued in Accra today, the Teshie-Nungua branch of the June 4th Movement says investigations conducted by it indicate that the PNDC has not yet received any such letter or resignation from Mr Chris Atim even though the letter was dated the 3rd of December 1982.

The investigations show that certain reactionary expoliticians have been distributing copies of the leaflet and some Western embassies have received copies. The statement denounces the contents of the letter as a betrayal of the revolution since on a number of occasions, Mr Chris Atim had publicly defended the policies which he is now said to be condemning.

The movement therefore calls on Mr Chris Atim to confirm or deny the authenticity of the letter.

PNDC CHAIRMAN RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM PAC

AB141435 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 14 Dec 82

[Text] The Pan-Africanist Congress [PAC] of Tanzania has sent a message congratulating the chairman of the Provisional National Defense Council [PNDC], Flight Lieutenant Rawlings, on firmly and resolutely dealing with elements bent on halting the revolutionary march of the country and undermining the gains and progress realized by Ghanaians under the First Republic and the ongoing revolution.

The message declares: Ghana, once the inspiration of the whole continent and torch-bearer of African liberation and pan-Africanism, has been through a turbulent past ever since the removal of the late President Nkrumah. Your assumption of the chairmanship of the PNDC heralded a new hope for Ghana, and thereby for Africa. The PAC is confident that the people of Ghana support the PNDC and that the able leadership of Flight Lieutenant Rawlings will successfully guide revolutionary Ghana during this trying period and restore Ghana to the position it once so deservedly occupied as the black star radiating hope and inspiration to Africans.

The PAC, one of the two liberation movements against apartheid in South Africa, was founded in 1950. Its headquarters is now in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and its current chairman is Mr J.N. (Pokella).

RADIO SCORES U.S. AS ALLY OF SOUTH AFRICA

AB130717 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 12 Dec 82

[Station commentary]

[Text] In Lesotho so far, 42 people were killed. Some of them were not even South African blacks but Lesotho citizens. One will recall that the then racist Rhodesia resorted to similar acts at the height of the nationalist war which ended with Zimbabwe achieving independence under a black prime minister. The Rhodesian Army's massacre of 600 civilians at Wuriado in Mozambique cannot easily be forgotten. It is now clear that racism resorts to these atrocities when the nationalist war begins to have effect. Therefore, [words indistinct], Black Africa can take consolation in the fact that this nation's act of genocide is evidence that the independence war by the ANC of South Africa is beginning to bite.

Africa, however, cannot forgive those Western powers whose support for South Africa makes these atrocities possible. These powers, especially America, have made statements condemning the racist attack on Lesotho, but we are not convinced about their sincerity. America, for example, shed tears for the loss of innocent lives. This presupposes that America regards some of those killed as having deserved to die because it agrees with South Africa that they are terrorists. The fact of the matter is that America regards South Africa as an ally that fits well into her geopolitical power strategy. This is in the same sense in which America regards Israel as a friend and an outpost for her interests in the Middle East.

That is why the world is not fooled by America's statement of condemnation for Israeli aggression in Lebanon, because this aggression was only made possible through American military hardware in the first place. And the world has been proved right by the fact that no sooner did the dust settle on that war than America and Israel signed an agreement under which Israel will sell to America the military secrets it gathered during its war with the Palestinians.

We know that America is such a close friend of Africa's enemies that it cannot claim to have Africa's interest at heart. The American vice president, Mr Bush, said after his recent tour of Africa that African countries would rather have relations with the United States than with the Soviet Union. He is entitled to his opinion. But if Africa continues to have relations with the West it is only because over the years the West has got its tentacles into all aspects of our economy. However intensely we hate these links, they have become unwanted organs of our body. We cut them at our peril. It would have to be done carefully, like a surgical operations, lest we bleed to death. In the meantime, America can do us one favor. It should quit the five-nation Western contact group on Namibia. We no longer trust in its debate.

The United States continues to put pressure on Angola to remove the Cuban troops there only to make Angola just as vulnerable to apartheid South Africa as Lesotho is. America only wants to make it possible for South Africa to do to Angola and the other frontline states what its protege, Israel, has done to Lebanon. Africa should just forget about the possibility of help from the West in the Namibian dispute. They should step up material and moral support to SWAPO, the ANC and the frontline states in their confrontation with South Africa and the West.

IVORY COAST

CEAO MINISTERIAL MEETING OPENS IN ABIDJAN

AB141324 Abidjan Domestic Service in French 1245 GMT 14 Dec 82

[Excerpts] The solemn opening of the 16th ministerial session of the West African Economic Community [CEAO] took place this morning at the Hotel Ivoire. This Abidjan meeting, which ends on 16 December, will prepare the agenda for the heads of state summit which will take place in Yamoussoukro on 19 December. The ministers are at present examining issues relating to trade, rural and industrial development, transport and communication.

MALI

TRAORE SPEECH OPENING AID CONFERENCE 13 DEC

AB131936 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 13 Dec 82

[President Moussa Traore's address to the first international conference for the economic recovery and development of Mali which opened on 13 December 1982 in Bamako -- recorded]

[Excerpts] Ladies and gentlemen, it is a real pleasure for me, on this particularly important day in the economic history of our country, to address the representatives of the countries and international organizations participating in the first international conference of financiers for the economic recovery and development of the Republic of Mali.

My first words will be to welcome to Bamako all the participants and to ask them at the same time to convey to the countries and organizations they have the honor to represent at this conference the thanks of the Malian people, their party and their government for accepting our call and replying to our invitation.

It is almost impossible for Third World countries, particularly the poor ones among them, to face the world economic crisis without external aid in view of the deepness of the crisis, the complexity of the problems to be solved and the importance of the means to be used. The spreading of this crisis situation in our countries is generalized. It has led to a dizzying drop in prices and equipment as well as prohibitive bank interest rates. These perverse effects, amplified by the landlocked situation of our country and the persistence of drought, have called into question the gains of our people and contributed to dangerously worsening the economic and financial balance we had resolutely decided to change. As a result, it has become increasingly difficult for our country to face the financial needs of our development. This is why the party and the government have placed at the forefront of their concerns during the next 5 years a new plan of economic and social development aimed at the rehabilitation and recovery of the economic and financial situation through the consolidation and the reinforcement of development projects implemented during preceding plan periods, an increase in the level of participation of the public as well as private and private-state organizations. And the implementation of planning techniques, management and control for better coordination and judicious use of internal resources and external aid.

Henceforth, the government has adopted measures of recovery and adjustment in the sphere of public finances, currency, credit and external payments. This is why a special plan is being implemented to rehabilitate and redress the situation of state firms and companies and rural development projects. Concurrently, the government has taken specific measures in the private sector to stimulate more dynamic participation in the economic development of the country. Similarly, a national strategy of self-reliant agricultural production integrated within the 5-year plan has been adopted and will be implemented very soon while the structures for planning and control of the implementation of plans, programs and projects are being strengthened. Finally, the party and government have decided to promote a development strategy based on the responsible and effective participation of the people in defining and implementing projects that are part of the development program. It is easy to note that each of these measures have borne fruit quickly, which is very fortunate. Let us note in this regard that the deficit in the national budget and in the state sector has been reduced considerably in spite of the pressures of inflation. As for the people, spurred on by a militant feeling of patriotism in spite of the natural calamities that hit our country again this year, they have implemented 80 percent of the 1982 program with their own resources. In addition, research on the restructuring of rural development projects and state companies and firms has already been completed and submitted to the government for examination.

Ladies and gentlemen, this means that the Malian people, their party and government are resolutely and irreversibly committed to economic recovery and development through the mobilization of their own resources. However, for these internal efforts to bear fruit, they need increased external aid adapted as much as possible to the conditions and realities in our country. Our government has tried to define aid -- which is more indispensable than ever -- in the most precise manner possible in the documents it has submitted to you. In this regard it has proposed 79 projects -- whose urgency has been stressed -- to the international community, taking into account the constraints and possibilities of the country as well as the strategies it has planned for the next 5 years.

NIGERMITTERRAND ADVISER ARRIVES IN NIAMEY 11 DEC

AB120958 Paris AFP in French 0950 GMT 12 Dec 82

[Text] Niamey, 12 Dec (AFP) -- Guy Penne, adviser to French President Francois Mitterrand on African affairs, arrived in Niamey on Saturday, it was learned from well-informed sources in the Niger capital. Mr Penne, whose mission and duration of stay are unknown, is to be received by the Col Seyni Kountche, head of state of Niger, the same source indicates.

NIGERIACENTRAL BANK REPORTS MONEY SUPPLY DECLINE

AB140941 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 14 Dec 82

[Text] Money supply in the country declined by 364.2 million naira at the end of July this year compared with a fall of 450.9 million naira in the preceding months. This was contained in the monthly report of the Central Bank just released in Lagos. It attributed the decline in money supply to the fall in demand deposits. The report however showed a marginal increase in foreign assets by 4.5 million naira resulting to more than 906 million naira.

RELIGIOUS SECTS, POLICE AGREE TO MINIMIZE TENSION

AB101906 Kaduna Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 10 Dec 82

[Text] In an effort to minimize religious tension in Kaduna, the state police command yesterday held a meeting with various Islamic religious sects in the states.

In a statement issued after the meeting, both the (Izala) and the (Dariga) sects have agreed to submit names of their preachers to the divisional police officers of their areas who in turn would keep such names in their records. They have also accepted to inform the police whenever there is going to be a preaching so that the police would attend in plainclothes to ensure that peace and order were maintained.

In addition, two representatives of one sect would also attend the preaching of the other sect to ensure that foul language was not used in the course of the exercise. The two groups have agreed to withdraw all offensive religious recorded cassettes from circulation and that any person or group of persons seen circulating offensive religious posters and cassettes will be reported to the police for prosecution. Loudspeakers would only be used in mosques to alert worshippers at the time of prayers but loudspeakers installed in private houses would be removed immediately. The religious leaders have also agreed to acquaint all their followers with the resolution adopted by them.